

Updated: 30 October 2019

[Print version](#)

# CEE 370 Environmental Engineering Principles

## Lecture #23 Water Quality Management I: Pollutants and Sources

Reading: Mihelcic & Zimmerman, Chapter 7

[Davis & Cornwall, Chapt 5-1 to 5-2](#)

[Davis & Masten, Chapter 9-1 to 9-2](#)

David Reckhow

CEE 370 L#23

1


## Question

- What is the biggest water quality problem in rivers and lakes today?
  - A. Dissolved oxygen
  - B. Pathogens
  - C. Endocrine disrupters
  - D. Cyanotoxins
  - E. Organic solvents

David Reckhow

CEE 370 L#23


2



# Water Quality

- Measures of Water Quality
  - DO and Oxygen Demand
  - Solids
  - Nutrients
  - Metals
  - Pathogens
  - Organic compounds
    - Toxics
    - Bioactive compounds
- Sources and Quantities
- Water Quality Modeling

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 3



# Introduction

**Water Pollution:**  
*The presence of any harmful chemical or other constituent present in concentrations above the naturally occurring background level.*

**Wastewater:**  
*discarded or previously used water from a municipality or industry*

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 4

## Waste Sources

- Point Sources
  - ■ Municipal Wastewater
  - ■ Industrial Wastewater
  - Tributaries
- Non-point sources
  - agricultural
  - silvicultural
  - atmospheric
  - ■ urban & suburban runoff
  - groundwater

**Well defined origin  
easily measured  
more constant**

**Diffuse origin  
more transient  
often dependent on precipitation**


**Treatment is generally feasible**

David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#23
5

## Typical Municipal WW Charact.

Parameter	Typical Wastewater Characteristics, mg/L except pH	U.S. EPA Discharge Standards, mg/L except pH	Typical Concentrations in Lakes or Streams, mg/L except pH
BOD <sub>5</sub>	150-300	30	2-10
Total Suspended Solids	150-300	30	2-20
COD	400-600	N/A	5-50
D.O.	0	4-5	4-Sat.
NH <sub>3</sub> -N	15-40	*	<1
NO <sub>3</sub>	0	*	<1
pH	6-8	6-9	6-8


David Reckhow
CEE 370 L#23
6



## Pathogenic Organisms

- Viruses
  - Polio, Norfolk agent, Hepatitis
- Bacteria
  - Typhoid, Cholera, Shigella, Salmonella
  - Antibiotic resistant forms
- Protozoans
  - Cryptosporidium, Giardia

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 7



## Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.)


- Oxygen is a rather insoluble gas
  - often the limiting constituent in the aerobic purification of wastes and natural waters
  - solubility ranges from 14.6 mg/L at 0°C to about 7 mg/L at 35°C.
    - In addition to temperature, its solubility varies with barometric pressure and salinity.
  - The saturation concentration of oxygen in distilled water may be calculated from Henry's law M&Z Equ #7.11

$$DO_{sat} = K_H p_{O_2}$$

$$K_H = 1.36 \times 10^{-3} \frac{\text{moles}}{\text{L-atm}} \text{ at } 20^\circ\text{C}$$
  - But if you need to adjust to other temperatures, the following empirical expression is more useful:

KH=	1.36E-03
PO2=	0.21
DOsat=	2.86E-04 M
GFw=	32
DOsat=	9.14 mg/L

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 8




## DO saturation formula

$$C_s = C_{sl} P \left\{ \frac{\left[ 1 - \left( \frac{P_{wv}}{P} \right) \right] (1 - \theta P)}{(1 - P_{wv})(1 - \theta)} \right\}$$

where:

- $P_{wv}$  = water vapor partial pressure (atm)  
 $= 11.8571 - (3840.70/T_k) + (216,961/T_k^2)$
- $P$  = total atmospheric (barometric) pressure (atm), which may be read directly or calculated from a remote reading at the same time from:  
 $= P_o - (0.02667)\Delta H/760$
- $\Delta H$  = Difference in elevation from the location of interest (at  $P$ ) to the reference location (at  $P_o$ ) in feet.

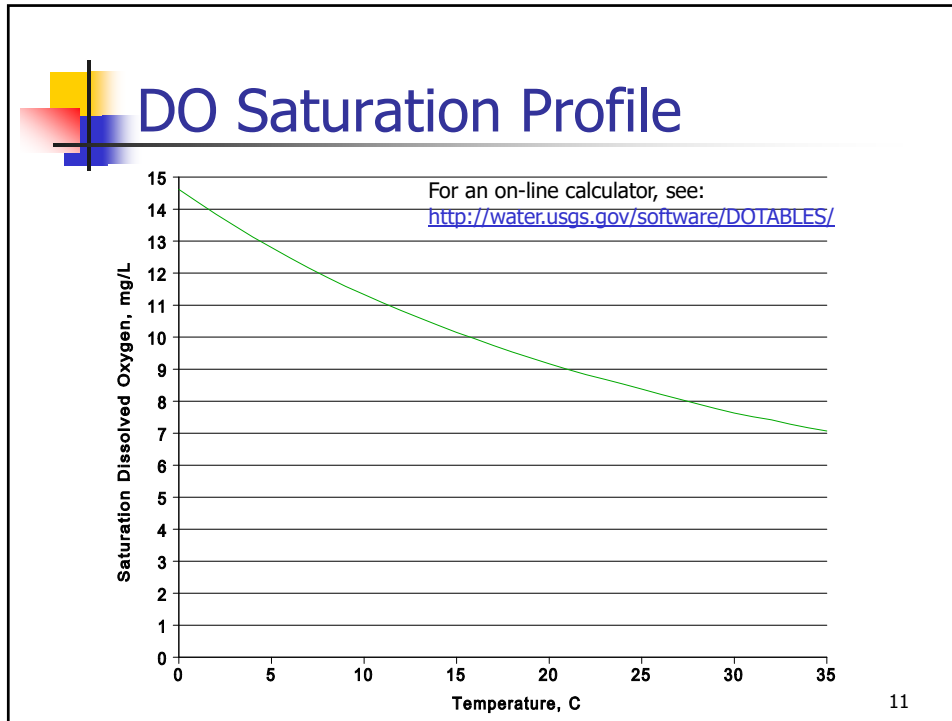
David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 9



## DO (cont.)

- $P_o$  = Simultaneous barometric pressure at a nearby reference location
- $\theta$  = pressure/temperature interactive term  
 $= 0.000975 - (1.426 \times 10^{-5} T) + (6.436 \times 10^{-8} T^2)$
- $T$  = Temperature in degrees centigrade
- $C_{s1}$  = Saturation concentration of oxygen in distilled water at 1 atmosphere total pressure.  
 $\ln(C_{s1}) = -139.34411 + (1.575701 \times 10^5 / T_k) - (6.642308 \times 10^7 / T_k^2) + (1.243800 \times 10^{10} / T_k^3) - (8.621949 \times 10^{11} / T_k^4)$
- $T_k$  = Temperature in degrees Kelvin ( $T_k = T + 273.15$ )


David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 10



## DO (cont.)

- Minimum concentration is required for the survival of higher aquatic life
  - larval stages of certain cold-water fishes are quite sensitive
- Significant discharges of organic wastes may depress the D.O. concentrations in receiving waters
  - microbially-mediated oxidation
  - each state has established ambient dissolved oxygen standards
- Another use of D.O. is the assessment of oxidation state in groundwaters and sediments


David Reckhow CEE 370 L.#23 12



## DO (cont.)

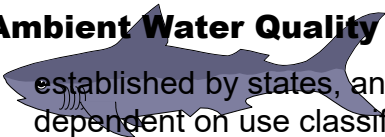
- also a very important parameter in biological treatment processes
  - indicates when aerobic and anaerobic organisms will predominate
  - used to assess the adequacy of oxygen transfer systems
  - indicates the suitability for the growth of such sensitive organisms such as the nitrifying bacteria.
- used in the assessment of the strength of a wastewater through either the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) or respirometric studies.

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 13



## Insufficient DO

- **Solutions – Reduce DO “demand”**
  - reduction of BOD by biological WW treatment
  - nutrient control
- **Ambient Water Quality Criteria**
  - established by EPA in "Gold Book"
  - dependent on type of fish, averaging period
- **Ambient Water Quality Standards [enforceable]**
  - established by states, and other local agencies
  - dependent on use classification



David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 14

## Oxygen Demand


- It is a measure of the amount of “reduced” organic and inorganic matter in a water
- Relates to oxygen consumption in a river or lake as a result of a pollution discharge
- Measured in several ways
  - BOD - Biochemical Oxygen Demand
  - COD - Chemical Oxygen Demand
  - ThOD - Theoretical Oxygen Demand

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 15

## BOD: A Bioassay

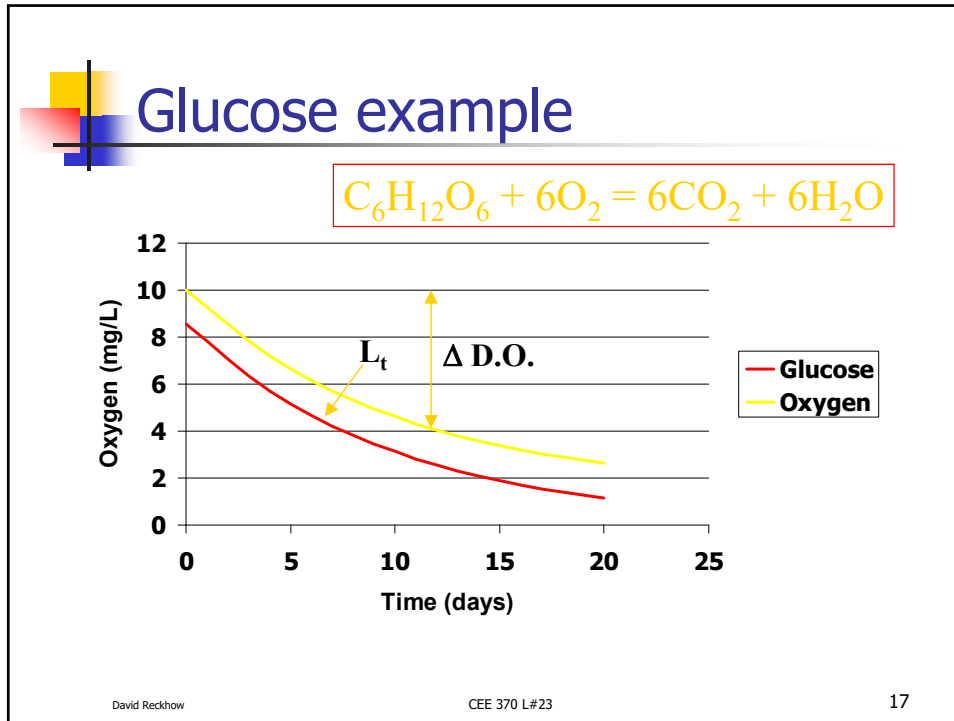
Briefly, the BOD test employs a bacterial seed to catalyze the oxidation of 300 mL of full-strength or diluted wastewater. The strength of the un-diluted wastewater is then determined from the dilution factor and the difference between the initial D.O. and the final D.O.

$$BOD_t \equiv DO_i - DO_f$$



David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 16





## BOD with dilution

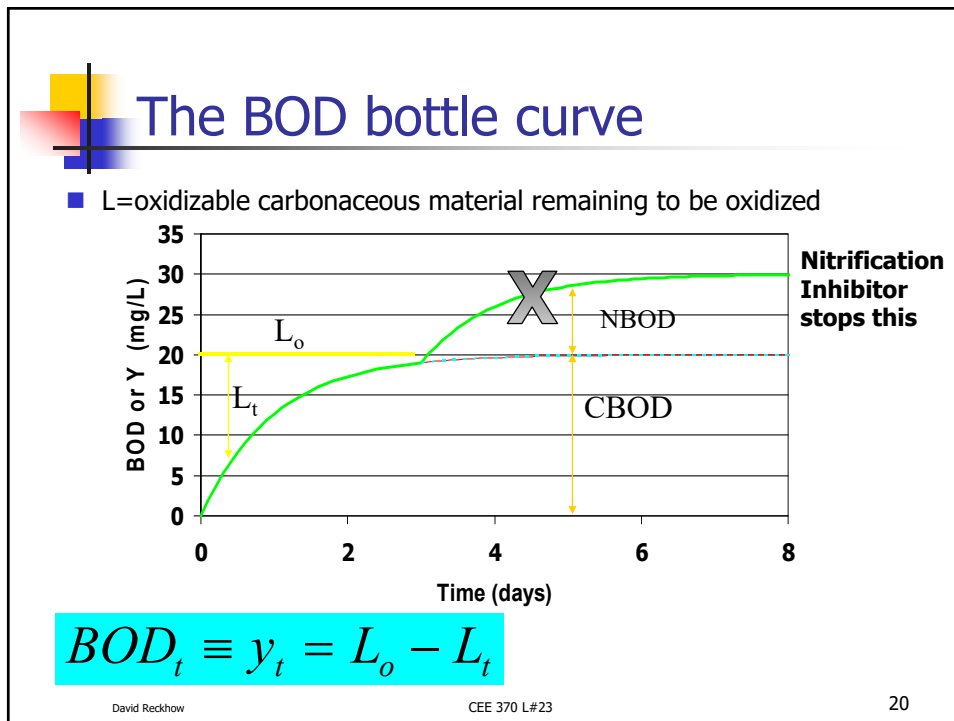
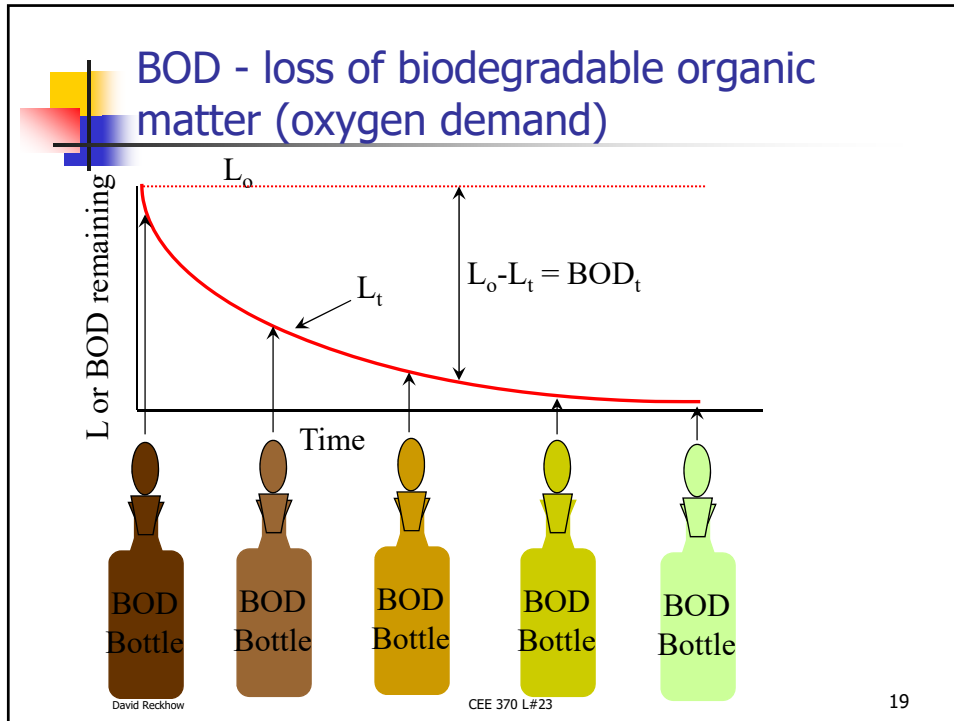
When BOD > 8mg/L


$$BOD_t = \frac{DO_i - DO_f}{\left(\frac{V_s}{V_b}\right)}$$

Where

- $BOD_t$  = biochemical oxygen demand at t days, [mg/L]
- $DO_i$  = initial dissolved oxygen in the sample bottle, [mg/L]
- $DO_f$  = final dissolved oxygen in the sample bottle, [mg/L]
- $V_b$  = sample bottle volume, usually 300 mL, [mL]
- $V_s$  = sample volume, [mL]

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 18





## BOD Modeling in a BOD test


"L" is modelled as a simple 1st order decay:  $\frac{dL}{dt} = -k_1 L$

Which leads to:  $L = L_o e^{-k_1 t}$

And combining with:  $BOD_t \equiv y_t = L_o - L_t$

We get:  $BOD_t \equiv y_t = L_o (1 - e^{-k_1 t})$

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 21



## Temperature Effects


### Temperature Dependence

- Chemist's Approach: Arrhenius Equation
 
$$\frac{d(\ln k)}{dT_a} = \frac{E_a}{RT_a^2}$$

$$k_{T_a} = k_{293^\circ K} e^{E_a(T_a - 293)/RT_a 293}$$
- Engineer's Approach:
 
$$k_T = k_{20^\circ C} \theta^{T - 20^\circ C}$$

For CBOD  
Often we use:  $\theta = 1.047$   
D&M cite: 1.056 for 20-30C  
and 1.135 for 4-20C

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 22



## NBOD

### Nitrogenous BOD (NBOD)

$$NH_3 + 1.5O_2 \xrightarrow{\text{Nitrosomonas}} NO_2^- + H_2O + H^+$$


$$NO_2^- + \frac{1}{2}O_2 \xrightarrow{\text{Nitrobacter}} NO_3^-$$

2 moles oxygen/1 mole of ammonia  
4.57 grams oxygen/gram ammonia-nitrogen

Like CBOD, the NBOD can be modelled as a simple 1st order decay:

$$\frac{dL^N}{dt} = -k_N L^N$$

David Reckhow 23



## NBOD cont.

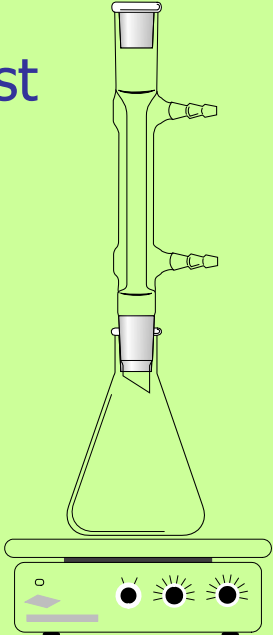
- The model is then:
 
$$NBOD_t = L_o^N (1 - e^{-k_N t})$$
- where:
 
$$L_o^N \equiv NBOD_u = 4.57(org - N + NH_3 - N)$$
- Nitrifiers
  - very slow generation time (~1 day)
  - sensitive to low D.O.
- NBOD may be very important for non-nitrified, but otherwise highly treated waters

David Reckhow 24

## COD: A chemical test

The chemical oxygen demand (COD) of a waste is measured in terms of the amount of potassium dichromate ( $K_2Cr_2O_7$ ) reduced by the sample during 2 hr of reflux in a medium of boiling, 50%  $H_2SO_4$  and in the presence of a  $Ag_2SO_4$  catalyst.

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23



## COD (cont.)

The stoichiometry of the reaction between dichromate and organic matter is:


$$C_nH_aO_b + \Psi Cr_2O_7^{-2} + 8\Psi H^+ \rightarrow nCO_2 + 2\Psi Cr^{=3} + \left(4\Psi + \frac{a}{2}\right)H_2O$$

Where:  $\Psi = \frac{2n}{3} + \frac{a}{6} - \frac{b}{3}$

- COD test is faster than BOD analysis: used for quick assessment of wastewater strength and treatment performance
- Like the BOD, it does not measure oxidant demand due to nitrogenous species
- It does not distinguish between biodegradable and non-biodegradable organic matter. As a result COD's are always higher than BOD's.

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23


26



## ThOD

- This is the total amount of oxygen required to completely oxidize a known compound to  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . It is a theoretical calculation that depends on simple stoichiometric principles. It can only be calculated on compounds of known composition.
- We've done these calculations already

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 27



## Organic Content

- TOC: total organic carbon
  - measured with a TOC analyzer
  - related to oxygen demand, but does not reflect the oxidation state of the organic matter
- other group parameters
  - oil & grease
- specific organic compounds

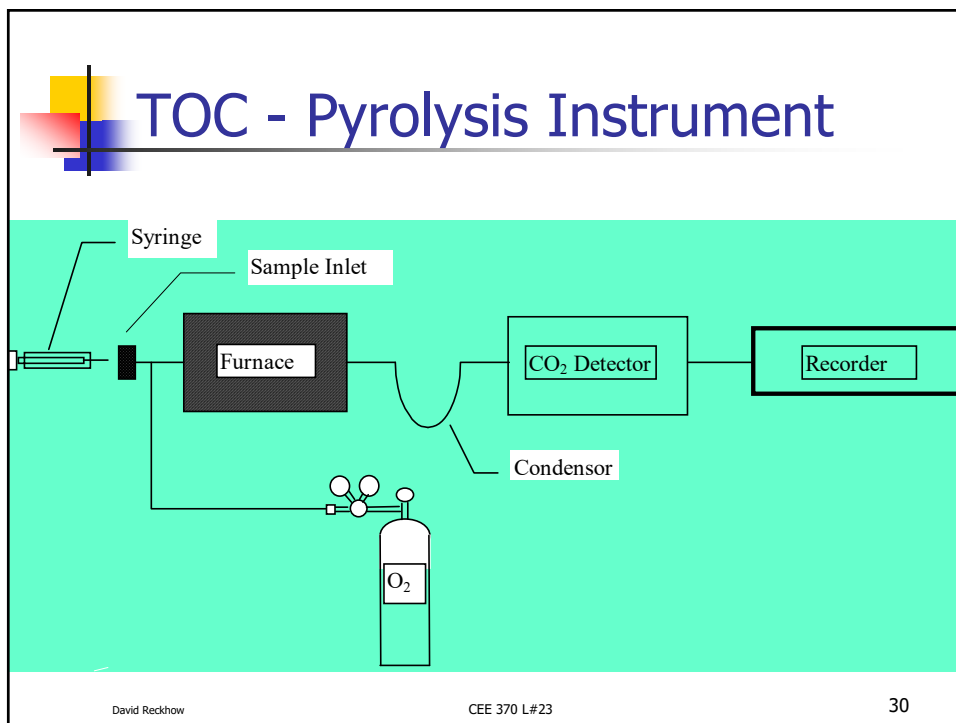
David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 28


## TOC

Total organic carbon analysis is a determination of organic carbon in a sample regardless of its oxidation state or biodegradability. Other measures of total organic matter (e.g., COD, BOD) may respond differently to solutions of equal carbon concentration depending on the oxygen content or the biodegradation kinetics. For the measurement of total organic carbon, the sample is exposed to an oxidizing environment often at very high temperatures. With complete oxidation all carbon is converted to carbon dioxide and swept into a detector by the carrier gas. The oxidation process is based on the following stoichiometry:

$$C_a H_b N_c O_d + \left(a + \frac{b}{4} - \frac{d}{2}\right) O_2 \rightarrow a CO_2 + \frac{b}{2} H_2O + \frac{c}{2} N_2$$

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 29






## NOM Quantification: TOC & DOC

**Principle:** oxidize all organic matter to Carbon dioxide and water. Then measure the amount of carbon dioxide produced

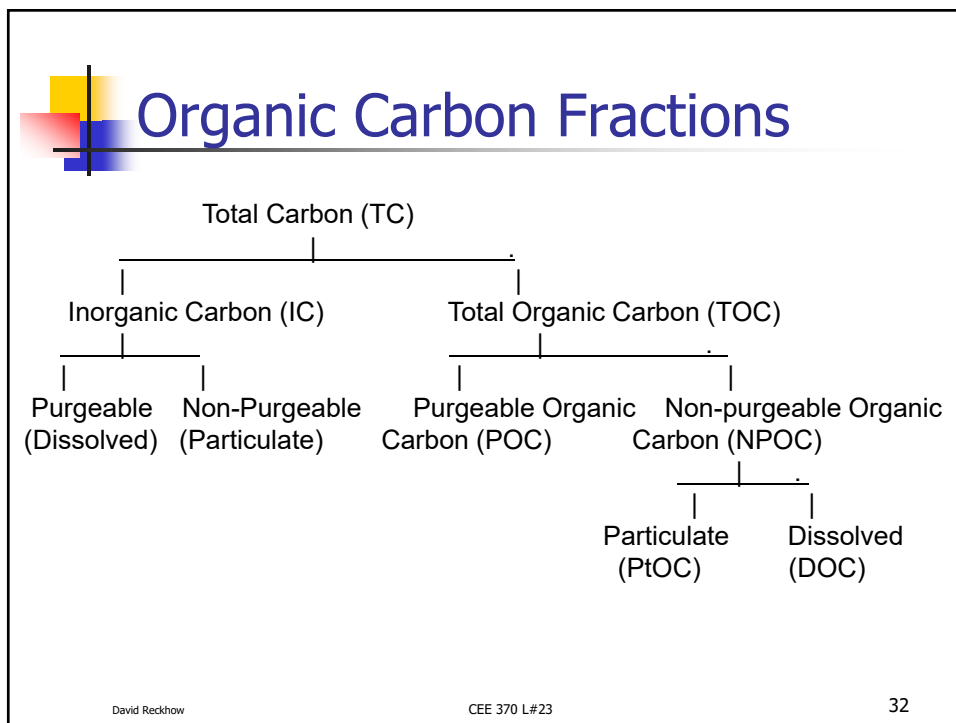
$$C_a H_b N_c O_d + (a + \frac{b}{4} - \frac{d}{2}) O_2 \rightarrow a CO_2 + \frac{b}{2} H_2O + \frac{c}{2} N_2$$

**Oxidation**

- High Temperature Pyrolysis
- UV Irradiation
- Heated Persulfate
- UV/Persulfate



David Reckhow

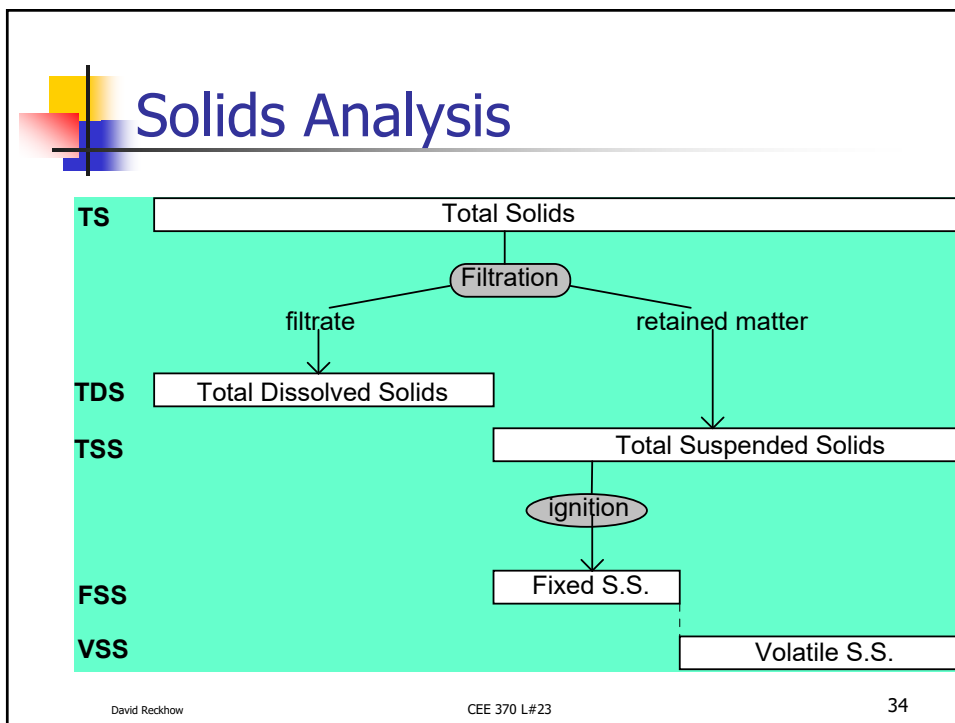




## Solids: significance

- **TDS: Total Dissolved Solids**
  - used as a measure of "salinity"
    - Indicates when water is unsuitable for drinking or agricultural use
- **TSS: Total Suspended Solids**
  - Measure of "muddiness" of a water
    - used to assess clarifier performance
- **VSS: Volatile Suspended Solids**
  - Used to estimate bacterial populations in wastewater treatment systems

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 33



## Particle Analysis

*Example 2.15 & 2.16, on pg. 30-31 of Mihelcic*

The diagram illustrates the analytical process for determining different types of solids in a water sample. It starts with a sample of volume  $x$  mL. This sample is placed in a crucible and dried at  $103^{\circ}\text{C}$  to determine Total Solids (TS), calculated as  $\frac{\text{wt gain of crucible}}{x \text{ mL}} = \text{TS}$ . Alternatively, the sample is filtered through a filter. The filter is then dried at  $103^{\circ}\text{C}$  to determine Total Suspended Solids (TSS), calculated as  $\frac{\text{wt gain of filter}}{x \text{ mL}} = \text{TSS}$ . After drying, the filter is placed in a furnace and ignited at  $550^{\circ}\text{C}$  to determine Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS), calculated as  $\frac{\text{wt loss of filter}}{x \text{ mL}} = \text{VSS}$ . Finally, the filtrate is placed in a crucible and dried at  $103^{\circ}\text{C}$  to determine Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), calculated as  $\frac{\text{wt gain of crucible}}{x \text{ mL}} = \text{TDS}$ .

**Figure 2-2.** The analytical difference between total solids (TS), total suspended solids (TSS), volatile suspended solids (VSS), and total dissolved solids (TDS).

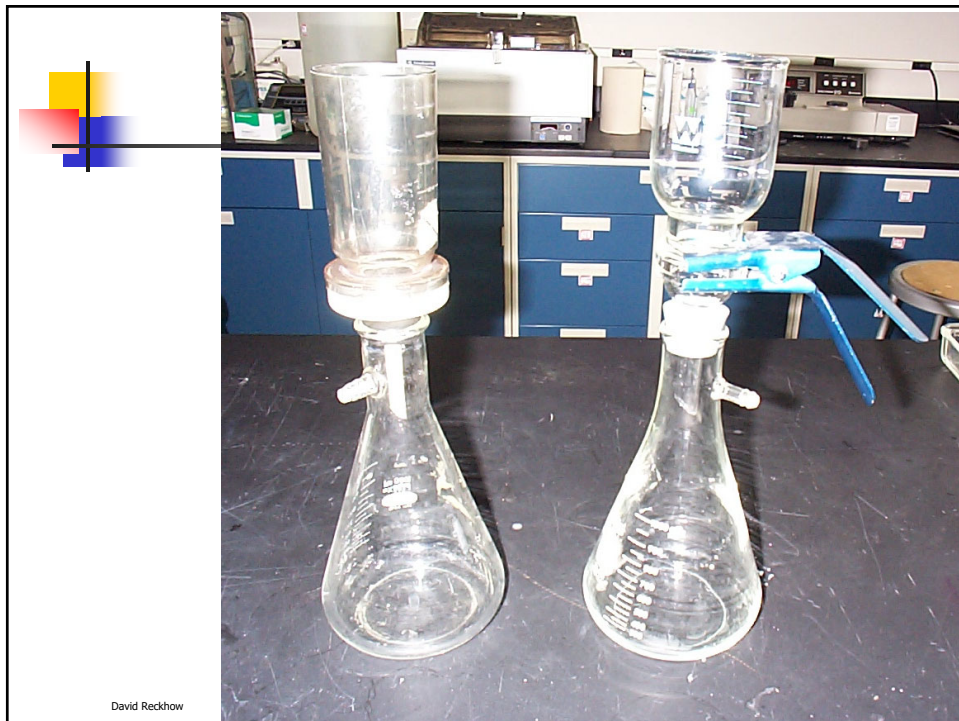
David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 35

## Filtration for Solids Analysis

The diagram shows the steps for filtration: 1. Weigh new filter and insert; 2. Pour Sample; 3. Start suction pump; 4. Remove filter and re-weigh; 5. Measure Change in Weight; 6. Divide this by the Volume filtered and you get TSS. The apparatus is labeled as a Suction Flask & Filter Holder.

**Suction Flask & Filter Holder**

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 36



# Filtration

- Choice of filter “pore” s
  - Somewhat arbitrary
  - Termed “operational”

From: The Chemist's Companion,  
by Gordon & Ford

Scale comparing Millipore filter pore sizes with microbes and micro-particles.


David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23

# Role of heating

**General rule:** all materials having a significant vapor pressure at the designated temperature are lost.

- Drying @ 103-105°C (best for low TDS waters)
  - positive bias: waters of crystallization and occluded water
  - some use a steam bath (~98°C)
- Drying @ 180°C (best for high TDS waters)
  - positive bias: some waters of crystallization and some partial oxidation of organics
  - negative bias: loss of some volatile organics, and some loss of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Charring @ 550°C (remove organic matter)
  - intended reaction: organics → CO<sub>2</sub>↑ + H<sub>2</sub>O↑
  - positive bias for VS: MgCO<sub>3</sub> → MgO + CO<sub>2</sub>↑
  - NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> → NH<sub>3</sub>↑ + CO<sub>2</sub>↑ + H<sub>2</sub>O↑


David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 40



## Procedures

- Total Solids (TS)  $\pm 5\%$ 
  - evaporated at 103-105°C for 1 hour
    - vycor or platinum evaporating dishes (procelain absorbs water)
- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)
  - filtered, then evaporated at 103-105°C or 180°C for 1 hour
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS)  $\pm 5-10\%$ 
  - weigh filter paper & pan; dry together
- Fixed Solids (FS)
  - all matter that remains after heating to 550°C
- Volatile Solids (VS)
  - all matter that is lost upon heating to 550°C, but not lost upon drying at 103-105°C for 1 hour

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 41



## Significance (cont.)

- Wastewater
  - measure strength & treatment efficiency (**TS, TSS**)
  - mass balance of solids for operation and sizing of sludge treatment, handling & disposal facilities (**TSS, VSS**)
  - estimate of active biomass for process control (**VSS**)
  - regulatory control on effluent (**TSS**)
- Natural Waters
  - direct hazard to aquatic life (**TSS, TDS**)
  - indirect hazard due to solubilization of hydrophobics (**TSS**)
  - siltation and hydraulic problems (**TSS**)
  - use for crop irrigation (**TDS**)
- Drinking Waters (uses turbidity in place of TSS)
  - suitability as a water supply (**TDS**), aesthetics, interference with other processes, treatment doses & sizing (Turbidity)

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 42

## Turbidity

A measure of the clarity of a water. It is determined by light scattering using a turbidimeter.

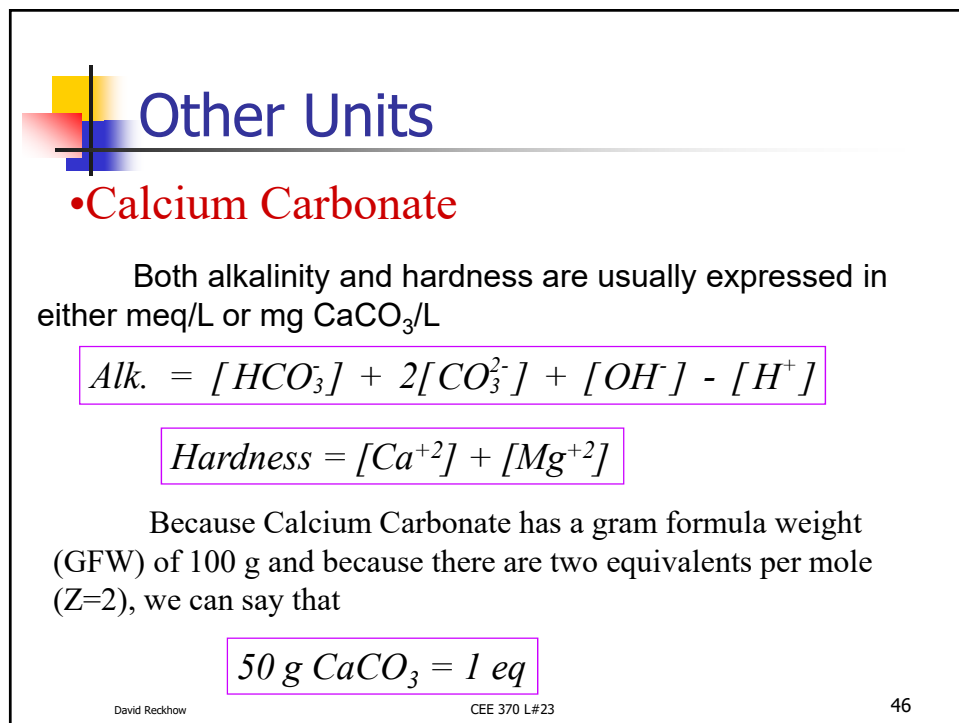
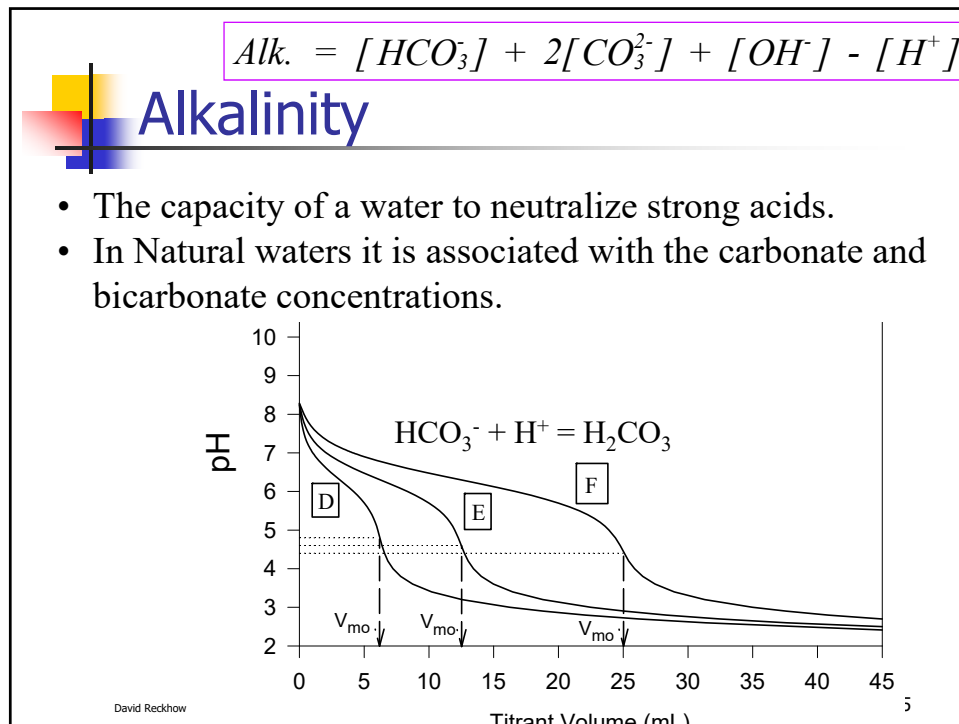
Light Source
Sample Cell
Photomultiplier


David Reckhow 43

## Avg. Concentration Of Major Inorganics in River Water

Species	Global Avg. <sup>1</sup>	N. America Median <sup>2</sup>	Colorado Ave. <sup>3</sup>
Ca <sup>+2</sup>	13.4	40	83
Mg <sup>+2</sup>	3.3	10	24
Na <sup>+</sup>	5.1	31	95
K <sup>+</sup>	1.3	2.4	5.0
Al <sup>+3</sup>		0.01	
Cl <sup>-</sup>	5.7	16.5	82
F <sup>-</sup>		0.17	
Br <sup>-</sup>		0.019	
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-2</sup>	8.3	33	270
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	52	225	135
SiO <sub>2</sub>	10.4	16.5	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>703</b>

David Reckhow CEE 370 L.#23 44






## Nutrients

- **Nitrogen:** all forms can stimulate growth
  - **Ammonia:** toxic & oxygen consumer
  - **Nitrite:** rarely present in high concentrations
  - **Nitrate:** drinking water concern
  - **Organic-N:** oxygen consumer
- **Phosphorus:** stimulate growth
  - **ortho-phosphates**
  - **Organic-P**

} Cultural Eutrophication

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 47



## Heavy Metals

- Toxic, non-biodegradable, exist in various oxidation states and chemical forms
- Examples
  - Mercury
  - Lead
  - Cadmium
  - Arsenic
  - Others

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 48



## Specific Organic Compounds

- Pesticides
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
- Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs)
- Endocrine Disrupting compounds (EDCs) and pharmaceuticals & personal care products (PPCPs)

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 49

## Endocrine Disruptors

- EDCs:
  - Agents produced outside an organism that interfere with the synthesis, secretion, transport, binding, action or elimination of natural hormones in the body that are responsible for the maintenance of homeostasis, reproduction, development, and/or behavior
- Androgenic Compounds
  - Compounds that mimic testosterone, the primary male sex hormone
- Estrogenic Compounds
  - Compounds that mimic estrogen, the primary female sex hormone
- Anti-estrogens, or anti-androgens
  - Compounds that block the action of the estrogens & androgens
- Phytoestrogens, phytoandrogens
  - Estrogens and androgens from plant sources

17β-Estradiol    Ethynylestradiol    Estrone

Androstenedione    Progesterone    Testosterone

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 50



## Measuring Specific Organic Compounds

- Cannot use classical methods
- Requires separation
- Chromatography is common
  - Gas
  - Liquid
- Detection: must be sensitive
- Sometimes requires specificity
  - mass spectrometry

David Reckhow

CEE 370 L#23

51



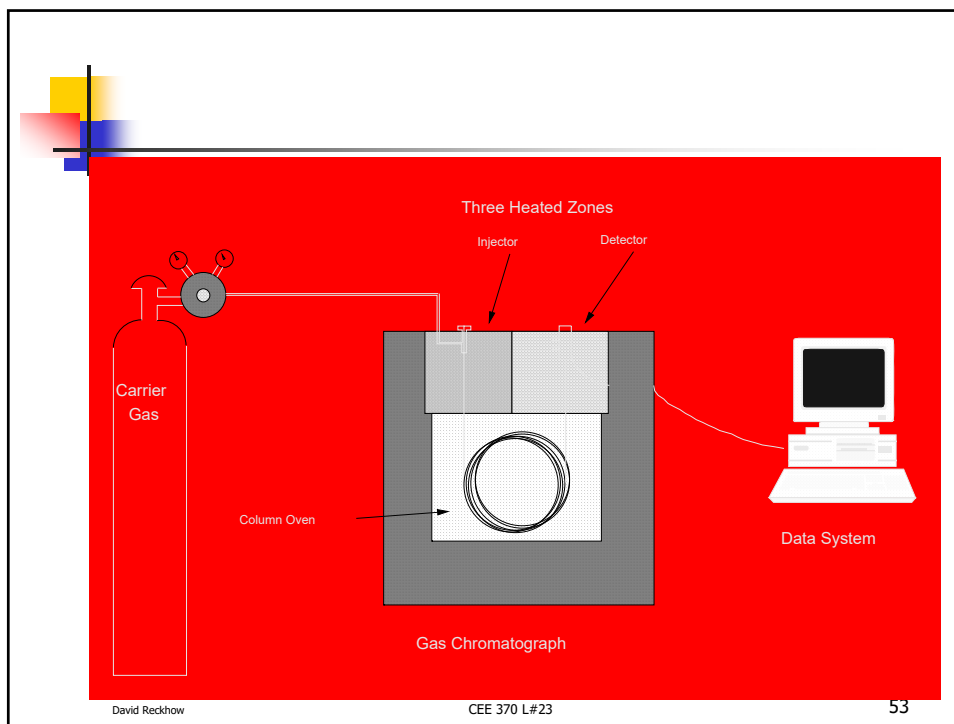
## Gas Chromatography

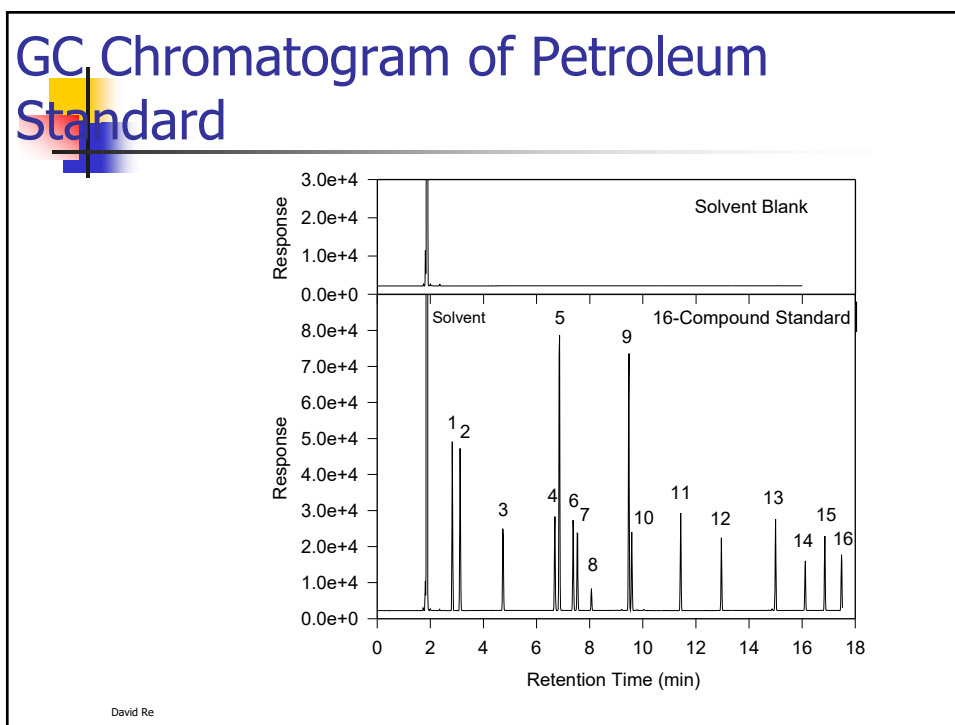
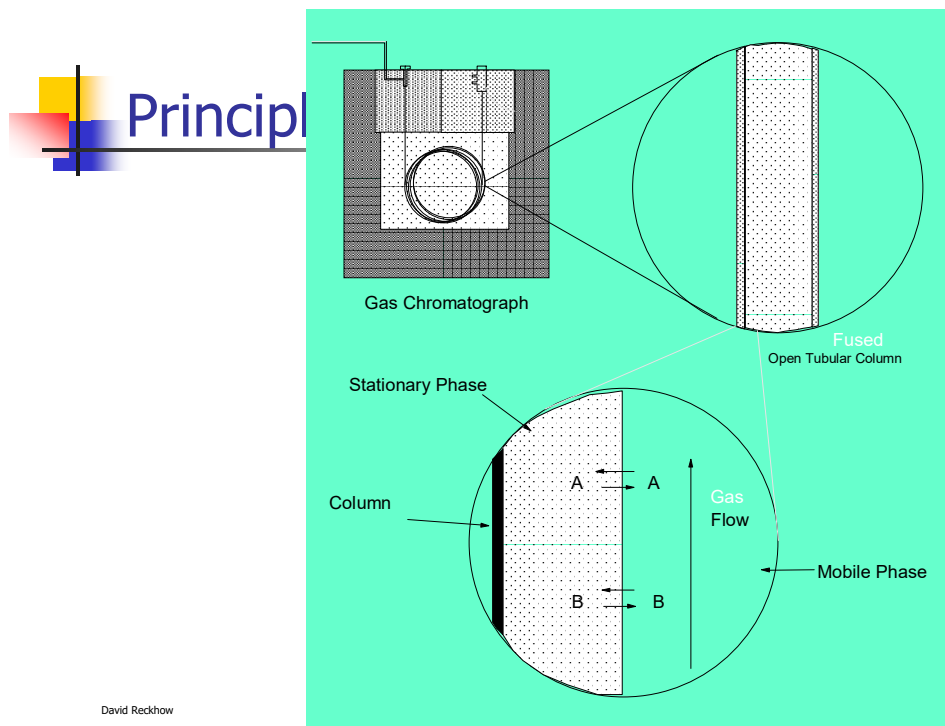
- An instrumental method
- Very powerful technique
  - very sensitive
  - can analyzed complex mixtures of organic compounds
- Has revolutionized organic pollutant analysis
- Steps
  - Sample is vaporized
  - Vapor sample is passed though a tube or column that slows down certain compounds
  - Substances are detected and measured as they come exit the tube or column

David Reckhow

CEE 370 L#23

52





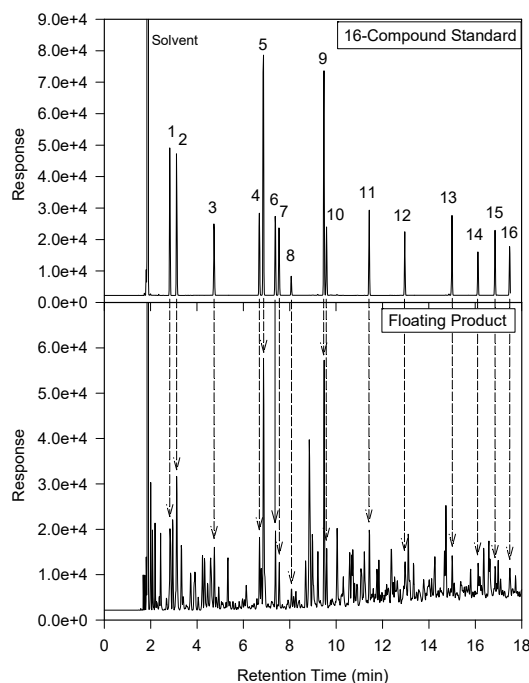
## Compounds in Petroleum Standard

Number	Name	Retention Time (min)
1	2-Methylhexane	2.83
2	2,2,4-Trimethylpentane	3.12
3	3-Methylheptane	4.74
4	Ethylbenzen	6.69
5	m-Xylene	6.86
6	o-Xylene	7.38
7	Nonane	7.54
8	Cumene	8.07
9	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	9.48
10	Decane	9.59
11	Undecane	11.42
12	Naphthalene	12.96
13	1-Methylnaphthalene	15.00
14	Tetradecane	16.12
15	2,3-Dimethylnaphthalene	16.85
16	Pentadecane	17.48


David Reckhow

57

## Comparison with Actual Sample




David Reckhow



## Water Quality Parameters


Parameter	Health Effects	Typical Conc. Lake or Stream	Drinking Water Standards
<b>Microbiological:</b> Total Coliforms, #/100 mL	Indicator organism, not necessarily disease causing	<100	1
Turbidity, NTU	Interferes with disinfection	1-20	1 to 5
<b>Inorganic:</b> Arsenic, mg/L	Nervous system and dermal effects	<0.01	0.05
Barium, mg/L	Circulatory problems	<0.01	1
Cadmium, mg/L	Kidney effects	<0.01	0.01
Chromium, mg/L	Liver/kidney effects	<0.01	0.05
Lead, mg/L	Nervous system, kidney, highly toxic to infants and pregnant women	<0.01	0.05
Mercury, µg/L	Nervous system, kidney	<0.01	2



## WQ Parameters (cont.)

Nitrate, mg/L	Methemoglobinemia	<1.0	10
Selenium, µg/L	Gastrointestinal effects	<1	10
Silver, µg/L	Skin discoloration	<1	0.05
Fluoride, mg/L	Skeletal damage	<1	4
<b>Organics:</b> Endrin, µg/L	Nervous system/kidney	<1	0.2
Lindane, µg/L	Nervous system/kidney	<1	4
Total trihalomethanes, µg/L	Cancer risk	<50	100
Benzene, µg/L	Cancer	<1	5
<b>Other:</b> pH	Corrosivity (not health)	6-8	6.5-8.5


David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 60



## Typical Municipal WW Charact.

Parameter	Typical Wastewater Characteristics, mg/L except pH	U.S. EPA Discharge Standards, mg/L except pH	Typical Concentrations in Lakes or Streams, mg/L except pH
BOD <sub>5</sub>	150-300	30	2-10
Total Suspended Solids	150-300	30	2-20
COD	400-600	N/A	5-50
D.O.	0	4-5	4-Sat.
NH <sub>3</sub> -N	15-40	*	<1
NO <sub>3</sub>	0	*	<1
pH	6-8	6-9	6-8

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 61



**To next lecture**

David Reckhow CEE 370 L#23 62

