

[Print version](#)

**CEE 697z**  
*Organic Compounds in Water and  
Wastewater*

NOM and MS Methods

Lecture #10

CEE 697z - Lecture #10

## NOM Characterization

---

- ▶ **Analytical Tests**
  - ▶ elemental analysis
  - ▶ spectral properties
  - ▶ functional group chemistry
- ▶ **Separation/Fractionation**
  - ▶ resin adsorption
  - ▶ size exclusion chromatography
- ▶ **Combinations**

---

▶ CEE 697z - Lecture #10

## Practical Characterization of NOM

- ▶ **Two necessary components**
  - ▶ A set of useful, and accessible characterization tools (i.e., analytical methods)
  - ▶ A means by which NOM characteristics can be translated into information of practical importance (i.e., what does it all mean?)
- ▶ **Progress is being made in both areas**
  - ▶ NOM characterization is still more “scientific” than “practical”
    - ▶ exception: SUVA
  - ▶ However, NOM characterization will become far more important in the near future

▶ CEE 697z - Lecture #10

## Most Useful Characterization Methods

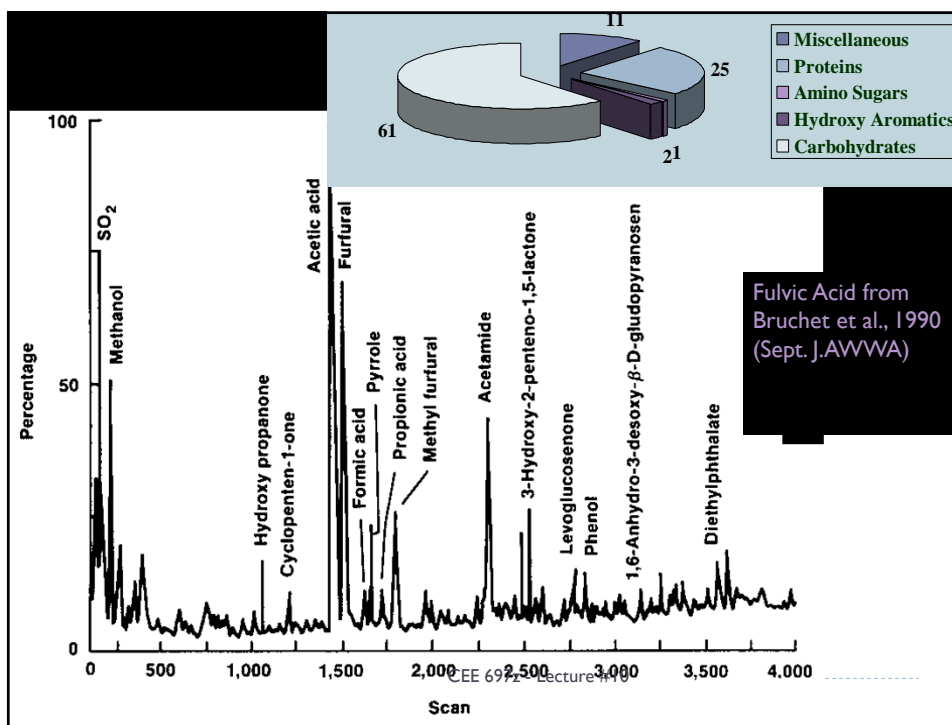
- ▶ **Current, accessible methods**
  - ▶ SUVA
  - ▶ Hydrophilic/hydrophobic
  - ▶ Absorbance at 272 nm???
- ▶ **Future methods**
  - ▶ HPLC & spectral based methods
  - ▶ Deconvolution of UV/Vis Spectrum
- ▶ **Research methods (require expensive equipment)**
  - ▶ Pyrolysis - GC/MS
  - ▶ <sup>13</sup>C-NMR
  - ▶ LC/MS

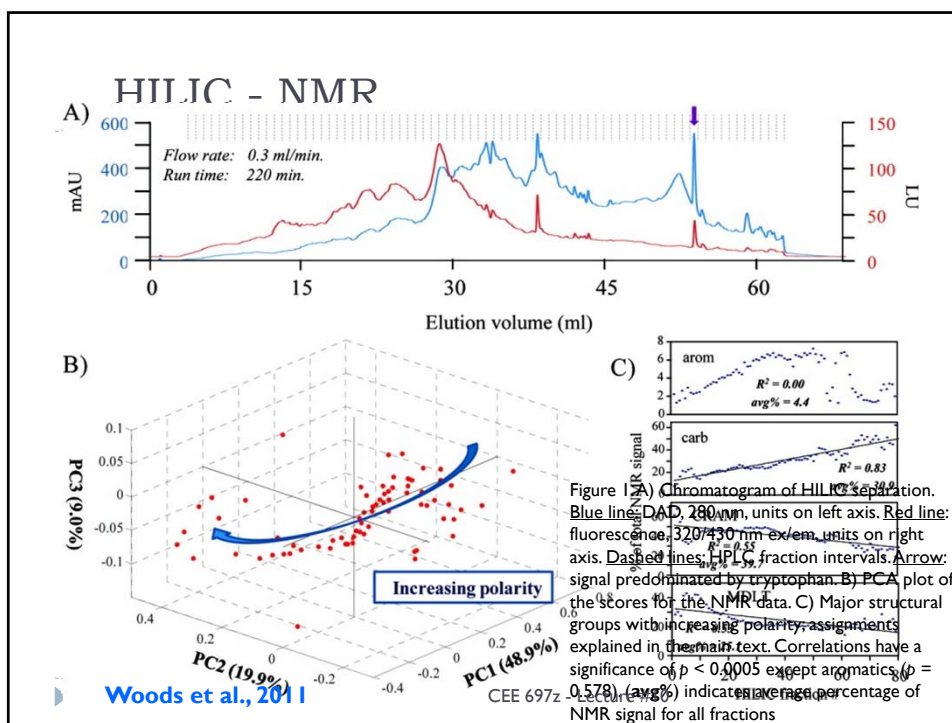
▶ CEE 697z - Lecture #10

## Pyrolysis GC/MS

- high temperature, rapid thermal decomposition
- followed by mass spectrometry for identification of pyrolysis byproducts
- difficult, and not quantitative, or at best, semi-quantitative
- can attribute pyrolysis byproducts to starting structures
  - .proteins (form pyrroles, indoles, phenol, p-cresol, nitriles)
  - .amino sugars (form acetamide)
  - .polyhydroxy aromatics (various phenolic derivatives)
  - .carbohydrates (form furans, acetic acid, and many carbonyl compounds) .carboxylic acids
- THMFP may be related to polyhydroxy aromatic content

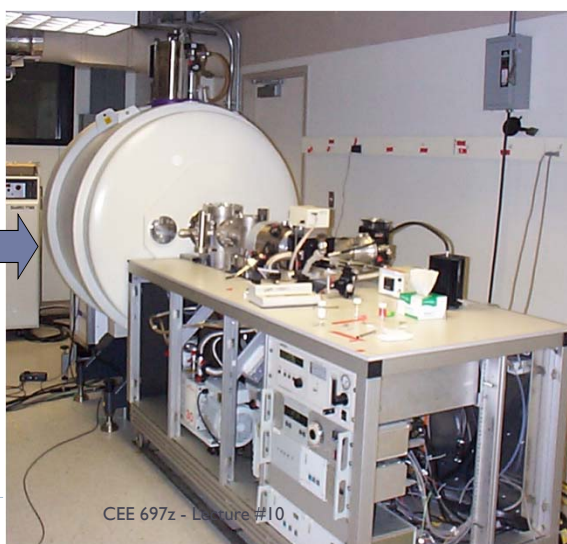
CEE 697z - Lecture #10

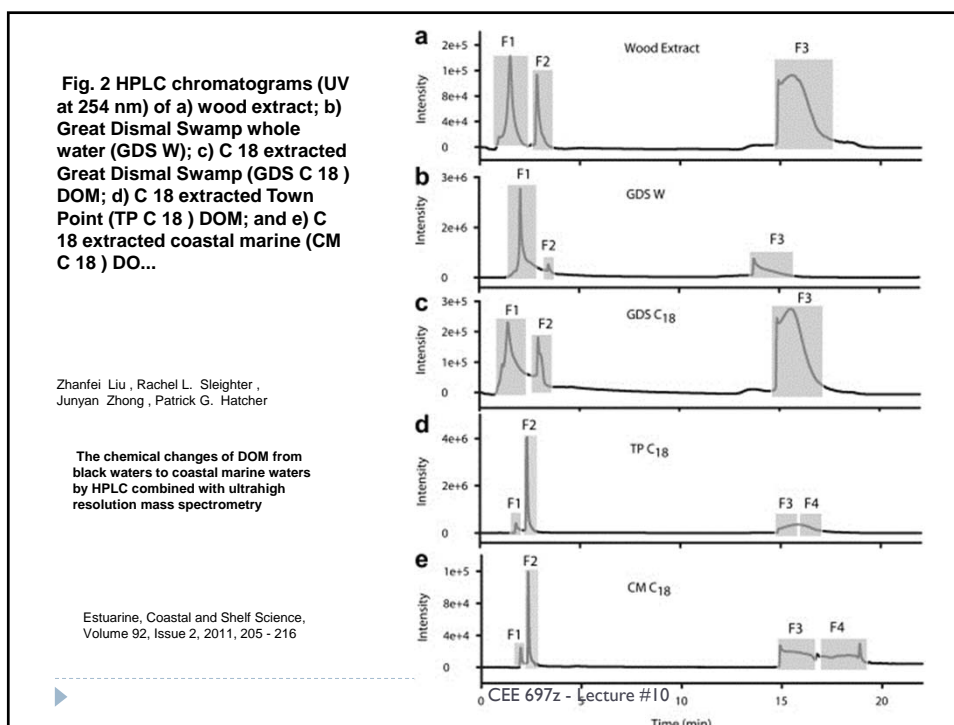
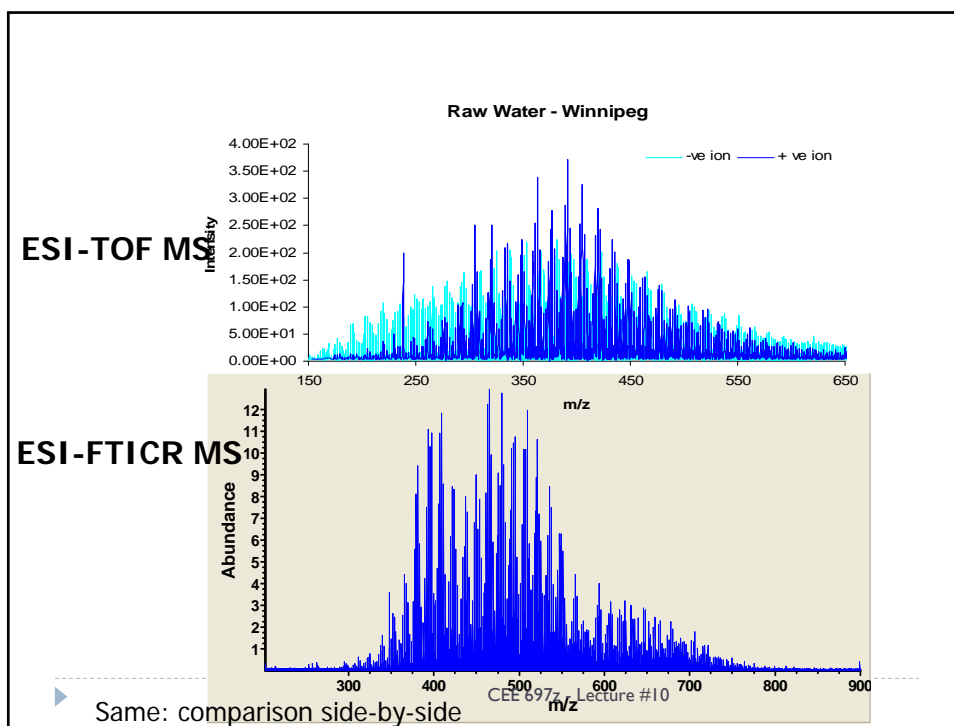


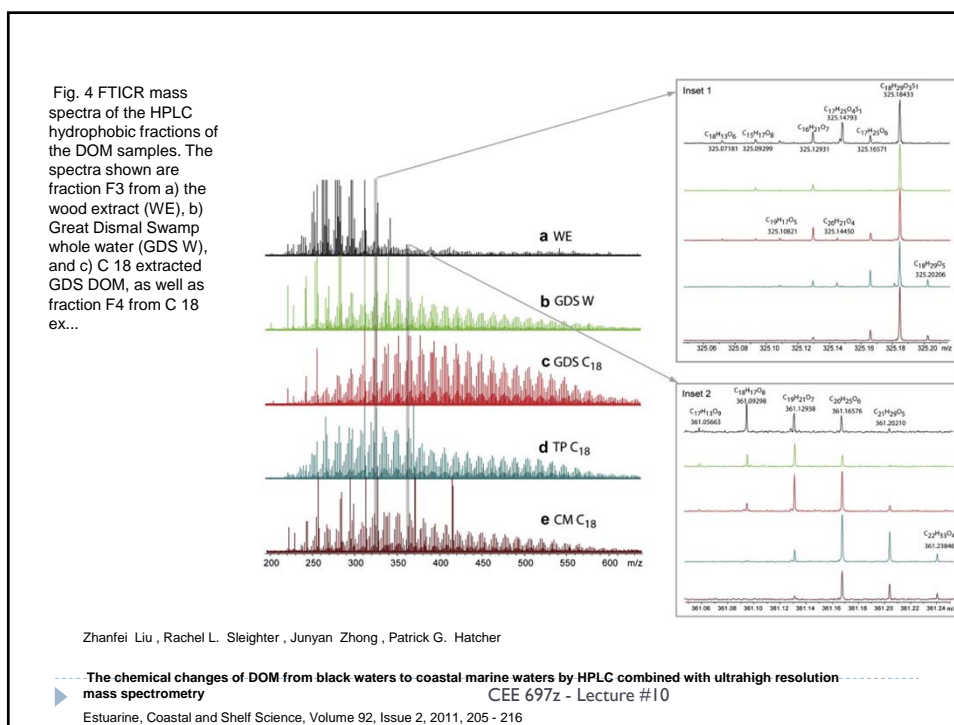
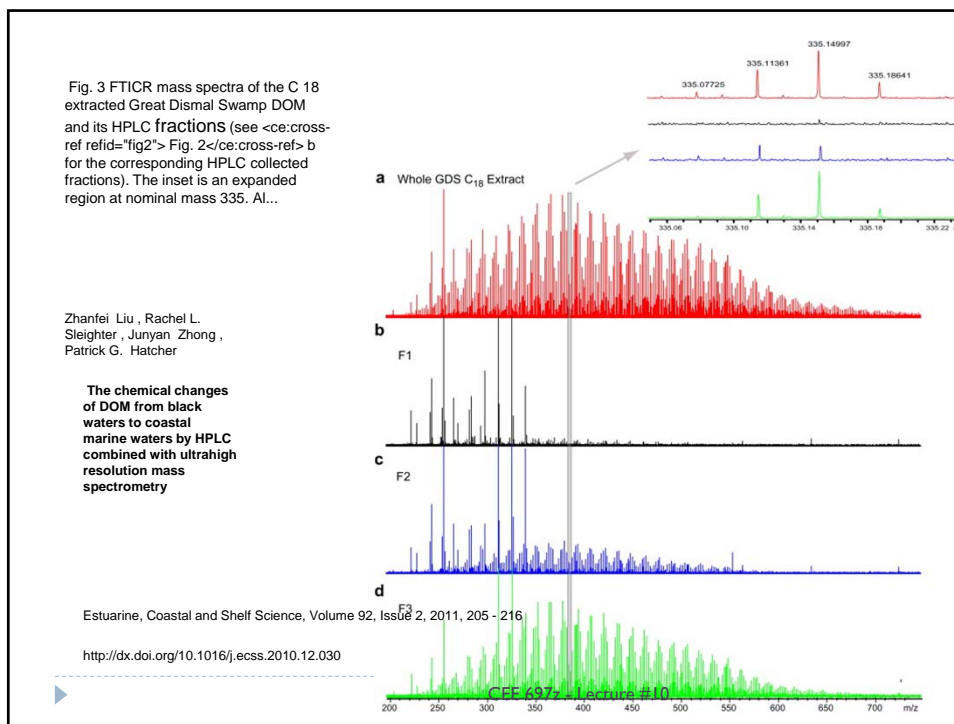


## The Future??: Higher MW ID

- ▶ **NOM research**
  - ▶ ESI with Ultra High-Resolution Fourier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectrometry
- ▶ **Benefits**
  - ▶ Unambiguous molecular formulae







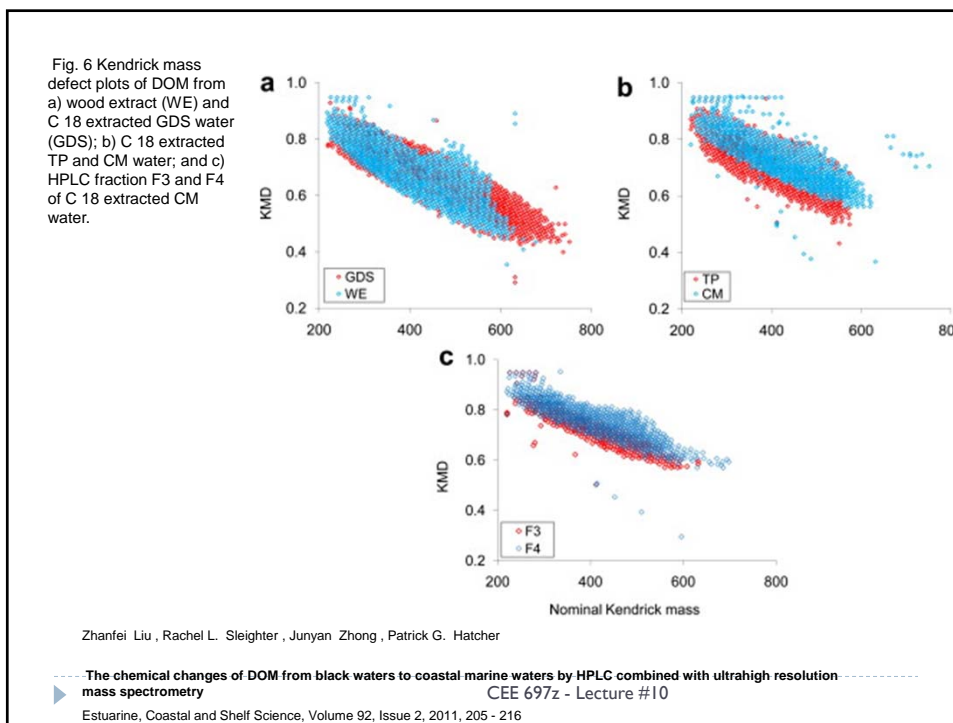
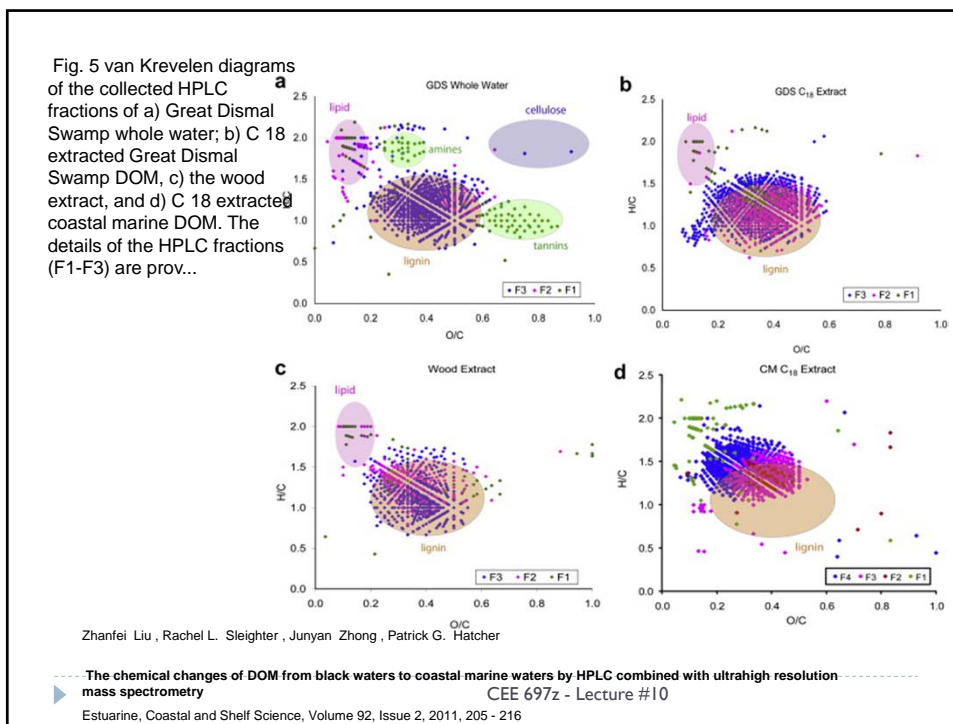
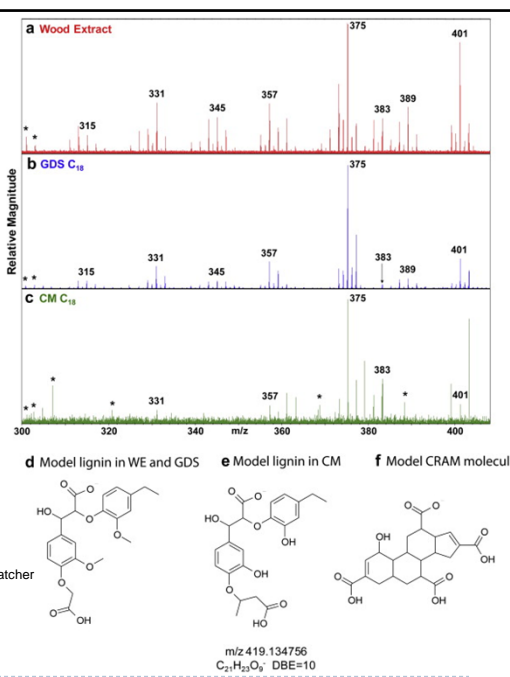


Fig. 8 FTICR mass spectra of the CID fragmentation of nominal mass 419 of the a) wood extract (red); b) C 18 extracted GDS DOM (blue); and c) C 18 extracted CM DOM (green). Asterisks (\*) indicate noise peaks, rather than fragments. The possible structure...

CRAM = Carboxyl Rich  
Alicyclic Molecules

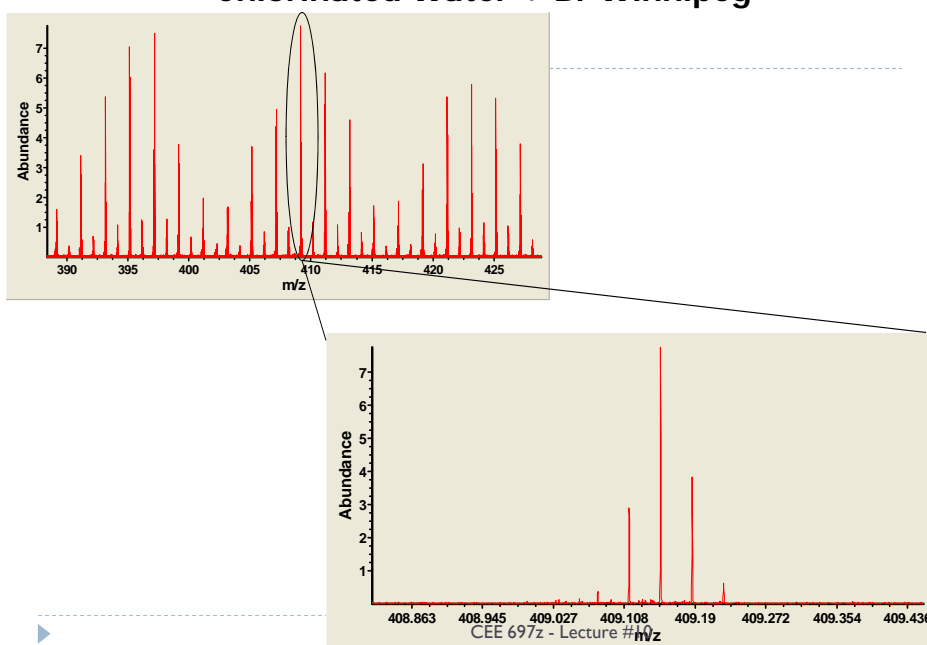


Zhanfei Liu , Rachel L. Sleighter , Junyan Zhong , Patrick G. Hatcher

The chemical changes of DOM from black waters to coastal marine waters by HPLC combined with ultrahigh resolution mass spectrometry

Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science, Volume 92, Issue 2, 2011, 205 - 216  
 CEE 697z - Lecture #10

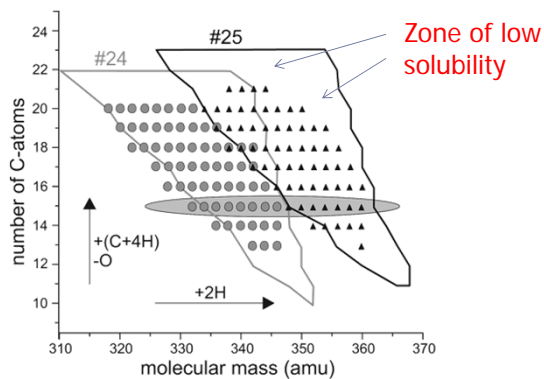
### Chlorinated Water + Br Winnipeg



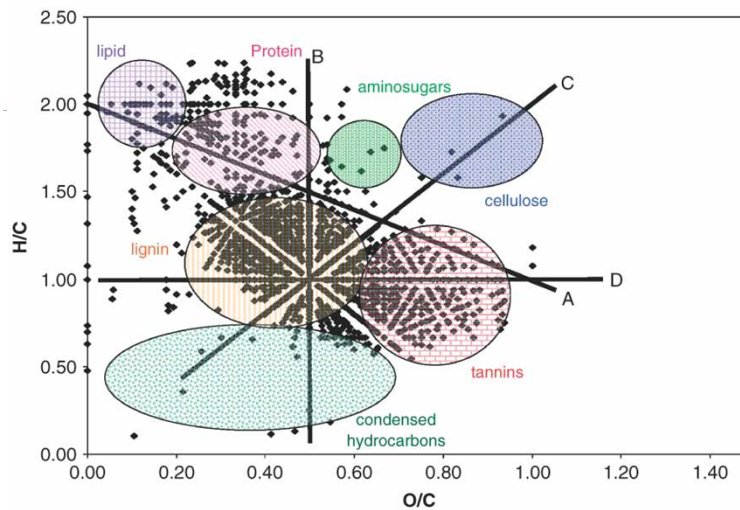
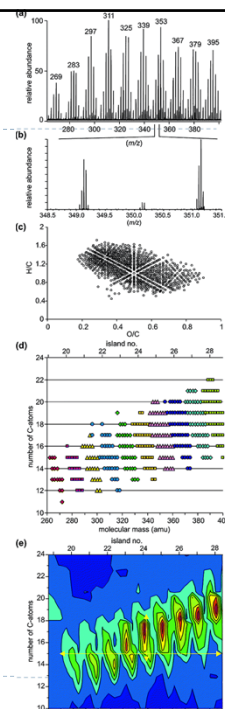


# Ultra-high resolution MS

Reemtsma et al., 2006 [ES&T: 40:19:5839]



Area of predicted fulvic acid molecules in a C- vs molecular mass diagram for the mass range  $m/z$  310-370 (marked by the lines) and fulvic acid molecules detected by SEC-FITICR-MS in the river isolate (dots (island no. 24) and triangles (island no. 25)).



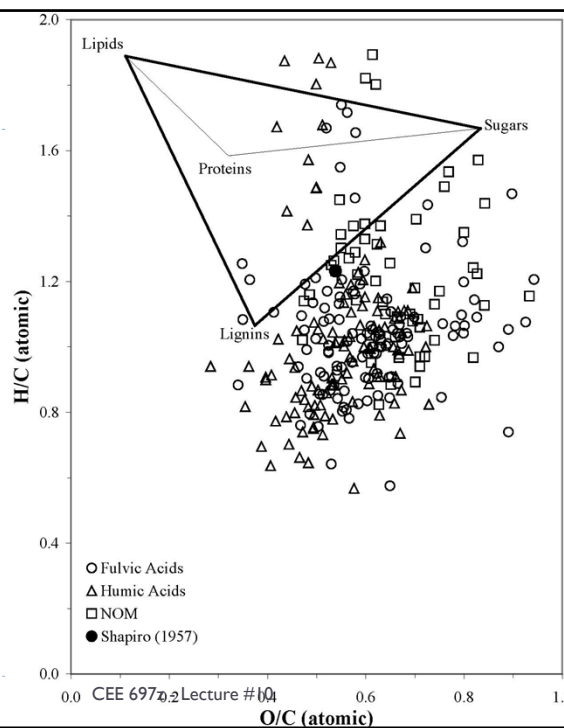
Van Krevelen diagram for the Dismal Swamp DOM, compound classes are represented by the circles overlain on the plot. The distinctive lines in the plot denote the following chemical reactions: (A) methylation/demethylation, or alkyl chain elongation; (B) hydrogenation/dehydrogenation; (C) hydration/condensation; and (D) oxidation/reduction.

Sleighter & Hatcher, 2007 [J. Mass Spec. 42:559] CEE 697z Lecture #10

## Elemental Ratios

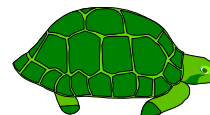
### ▶ Van Krevelen Plot

From:  
Perdue & Ritchie, 2004



## How to measure NOM

- ▶ Identify and quantify individual compounds
  - ▶ expensive and may only account for 10%
  - ▶ not practical
- ▶ Fractionate, extract and weigh
  - ▶ comprehensive, but time-consuming
  - ▶ doesn't tell us precisely what the stuff is
- ▶ Use a collective or "gross" measurement
  - ▶ TOC, UV absorbance, DBP precursors
  - ▶ easiest method, useful for engineering purposes



## NOM Characterization

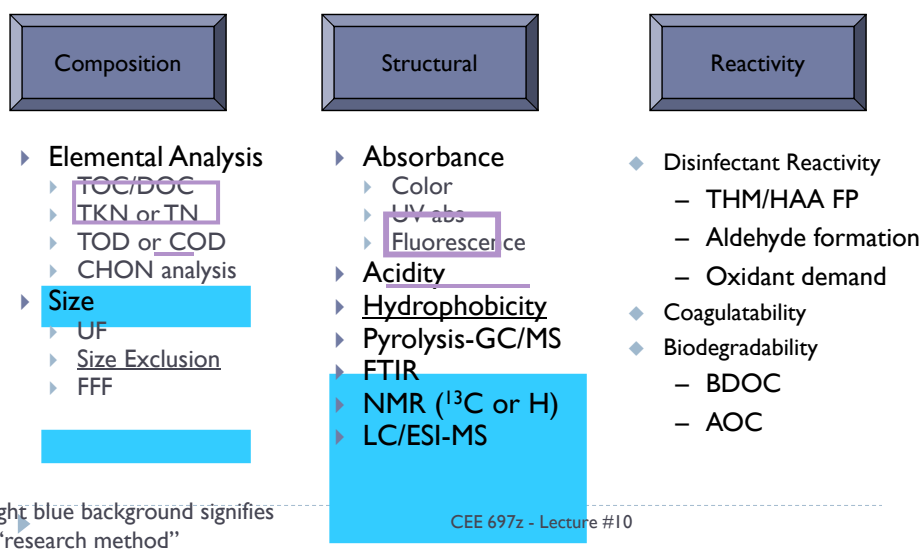
- ▶ Analytical Tests
  - ▶ elemental analysis
  - ▶ spectral properties
  - ▶ functional group chemistry
- ▶ Separation/Fractionation
  - ▶ resin adsorption
  - ▶ size exclusion chromatography
- ▶ Combinations

21

CEE 697z - Lecture #10

Adapted from Kornegay et al., 2000

## NOM Characterization



CEE 697z - Lecture #10

## Summary and Conclusions

### ▶ Humic and Fulvic Acids

- ▶ relatively hydrophobic, significant aromatic content, strong UV absorbance, moderate negative charge
- ▶ they will be reactive with disinfectants, but easy to remove by coagulation
- ▶ contain aromatic structures indicative of tannin and lignin residues
- ▶ largely allochthonous

▶ CEE 697z - Lecture #10

## Summary (cont.)

### ▶ Non-humics

- ▶ include hydrophilic acids, bases and neutrals and some hydrophobic materials
- ▶ may be highly charged, or uncharged, lower MW, weak UV absorbance
- ▶ they will be more soluble and difficult to remove by coagulation, but less reactive with disinfectants
- ▶ many aliphatic structures indicative of a lipid hydrocarbon source
- ▶ may be heavily autochthonous (algal derived)

▶ CEE 697z - Lecture #10

## Summary (cont.)

---

- ▶ **DBP formation**
  - ▶ most identified halogenated products result from free chloriation
  - ▶ concentrations of majors (THMs, HAAs) increase with reaction time, unless biodegradation occurs
  - ▶ pH and temperature play a significant role
  - ▶ bromide results in brominated forms of the DBPs
  - ▶ all disinfectants form oxygenated byproducts

---

▶ CEE 697z - Lecture #10

- 
- ▶ [To next lecture](#)

---

▶ CEE 697z - Lecture #10