Methods for Assessing Fine Particle Number, Concentration and Size Distribution in Water

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From now on we live in a world where man has walked on the moon. It's not a miracle; we just decided to go.

-Tom Hanks

What's a particle?

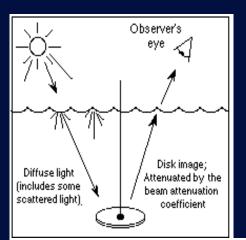
Organic Particles

Inorganic Particles

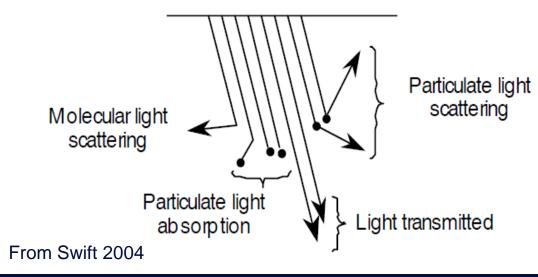


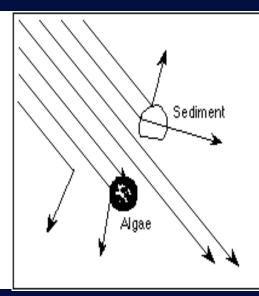
Why do I care about particles?

Jassby, A. D. et al. 1994 Swift, T. J., et al. 2006



ANNUAL AVERAGE SECCHI DEPTH METERS YEAR





Measuring Particle Size Distribution

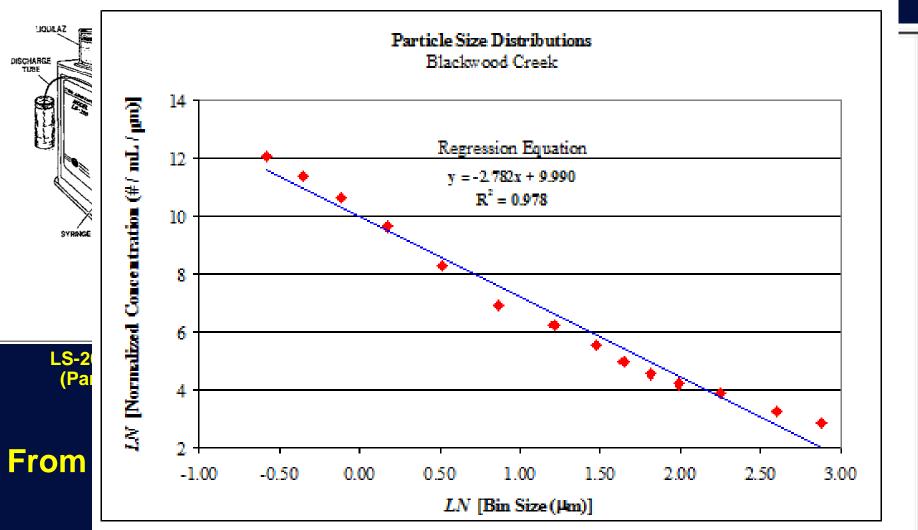
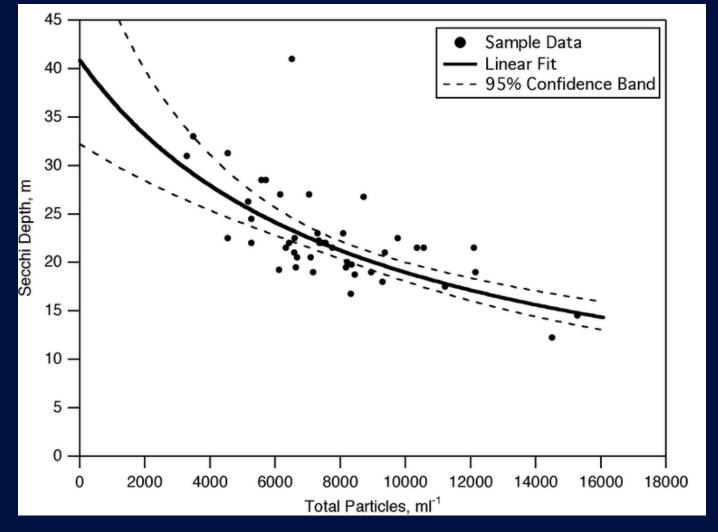


Figure 5.2: Log Transformed Particle Size Distribution for Blackwood Creek on 4/5/2002 at 07:40.

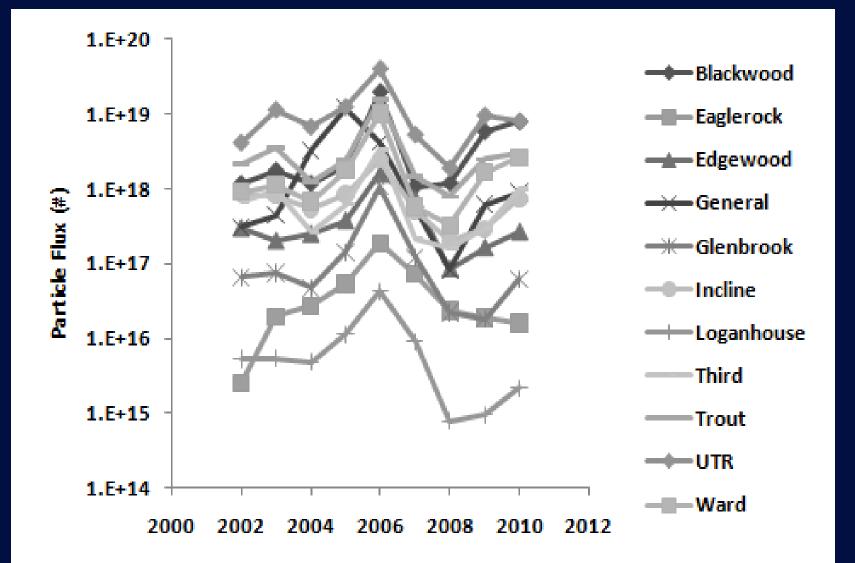
Figure 5.1: Particle Size Distribution for Blackwood Creek on 4/5/2002 at 07:40.

What's the deal with Lake Tahoe Particles?



Swift, T.J. 2004

Long Term Monitoring

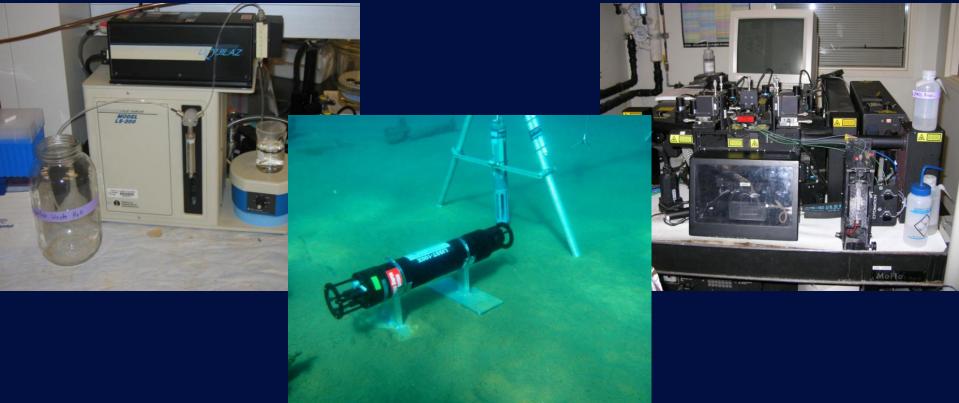


What methods can we use to measure fine particles (<20 μm diameter) in CLEAN lake water?

How do differences in instruments and differences in particles influence particle size and number data?

> How do particle attributes influence results?

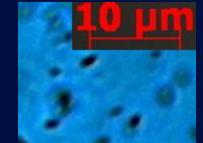
Instrumentation



Instruments	LiQuilaz	LISST-100X	MoFlow Cytometer	Light Microscope
Spatial Resolution	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Poor
Temporal Resolution	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Poor
Range	0.5-20 μm	1.25-250 μm	0.1-20 μm	Wide
Special Feature	Low range	In-situ	Absolute counts	Accuracy?

Particles Considered

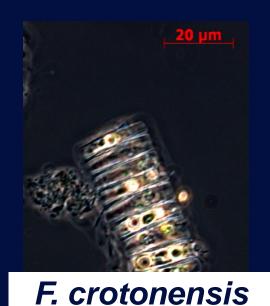




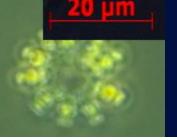
P. fluorescens

Washoe County Road Dust

Glass and PS Beads



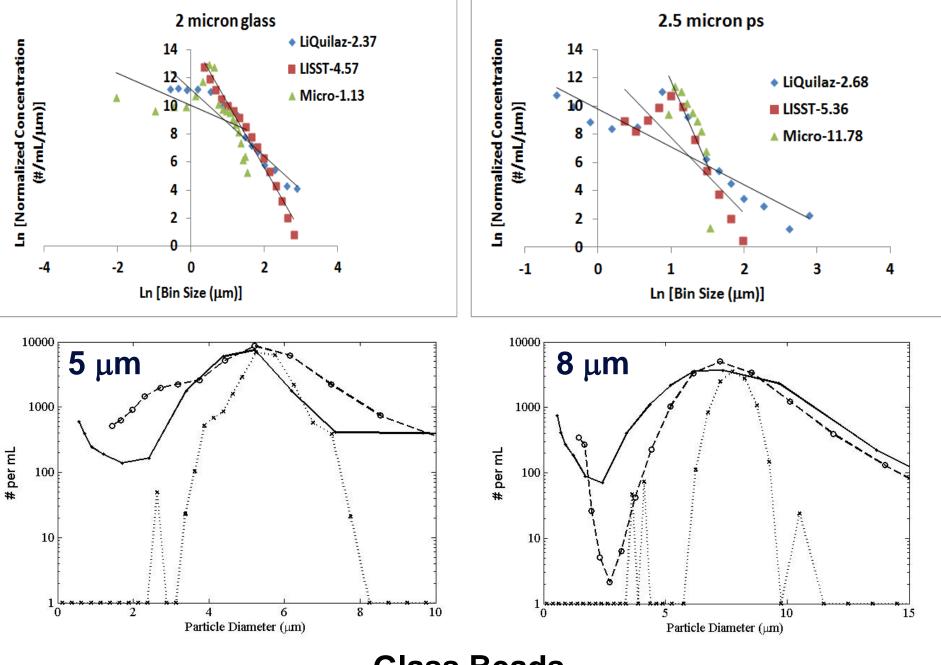
Marla Bay(0m)



A. formosa

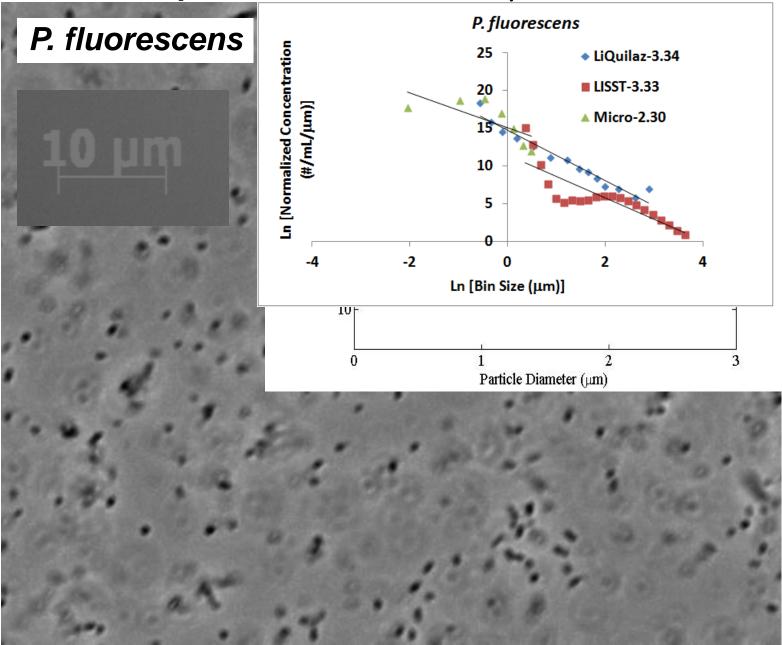
S. elongatus

C. reinhardtii

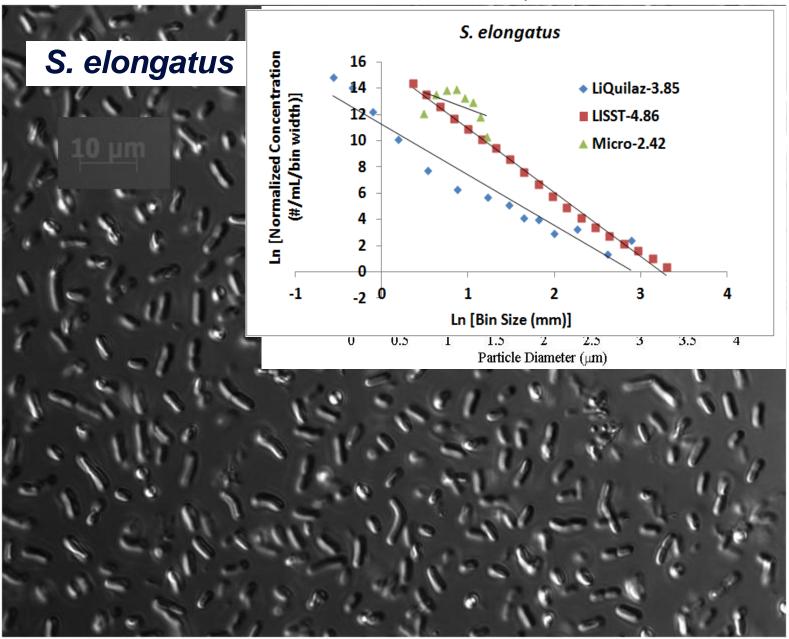


Glass Beads

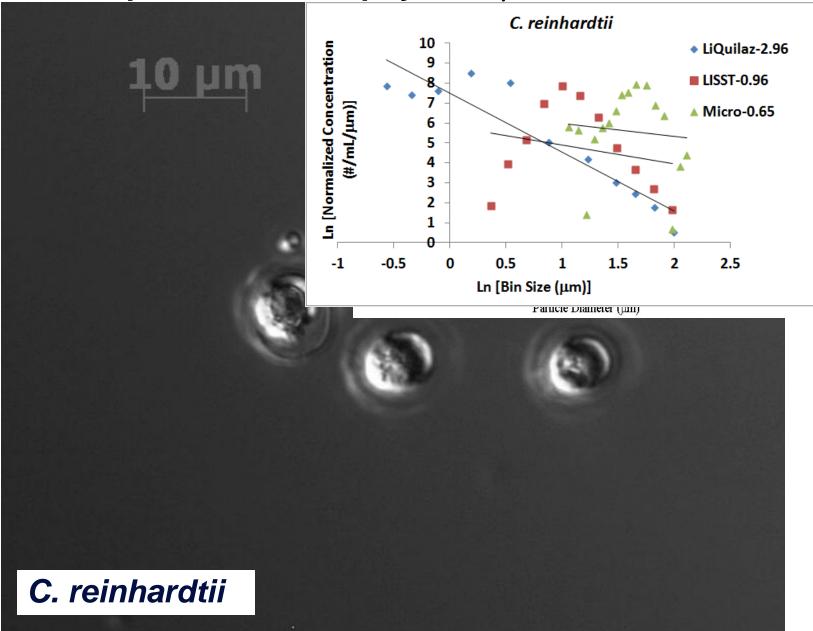
Ellipsoid Bacterium ~0.5 µm Diameter



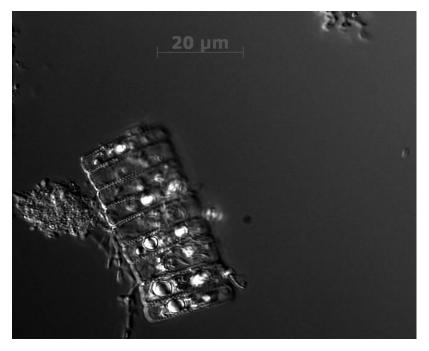
Elipsoid Cyanobacterium ~2 µm Diameter

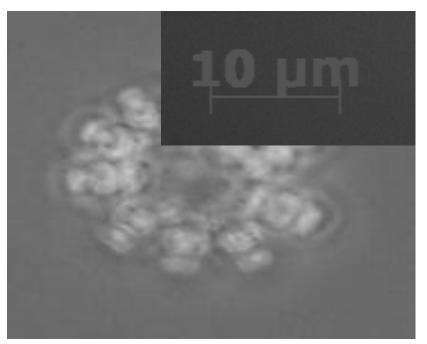


Spherical Chlorophyte ~5 µm Diameter



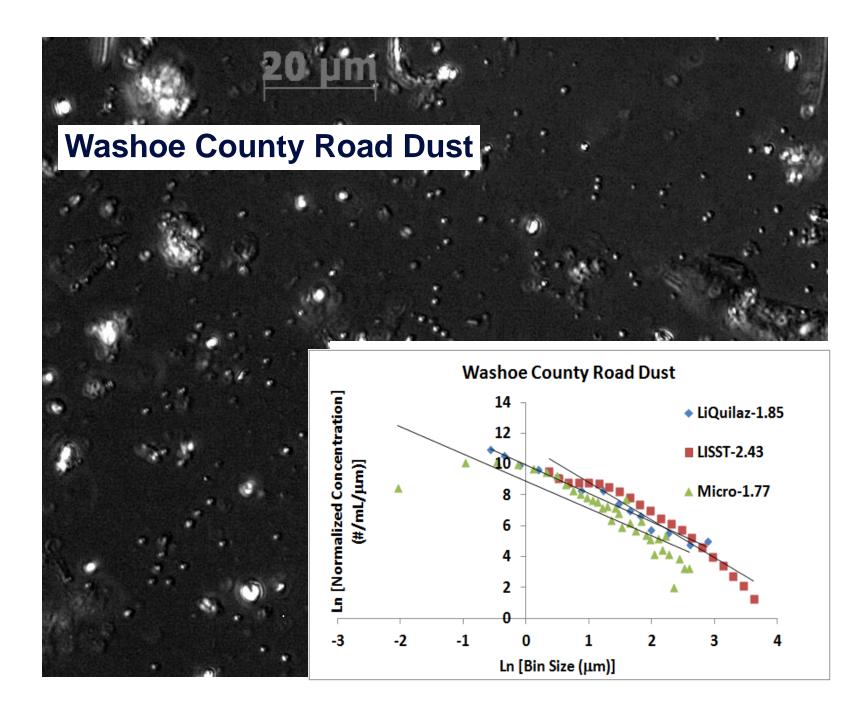
Organic non-conformists

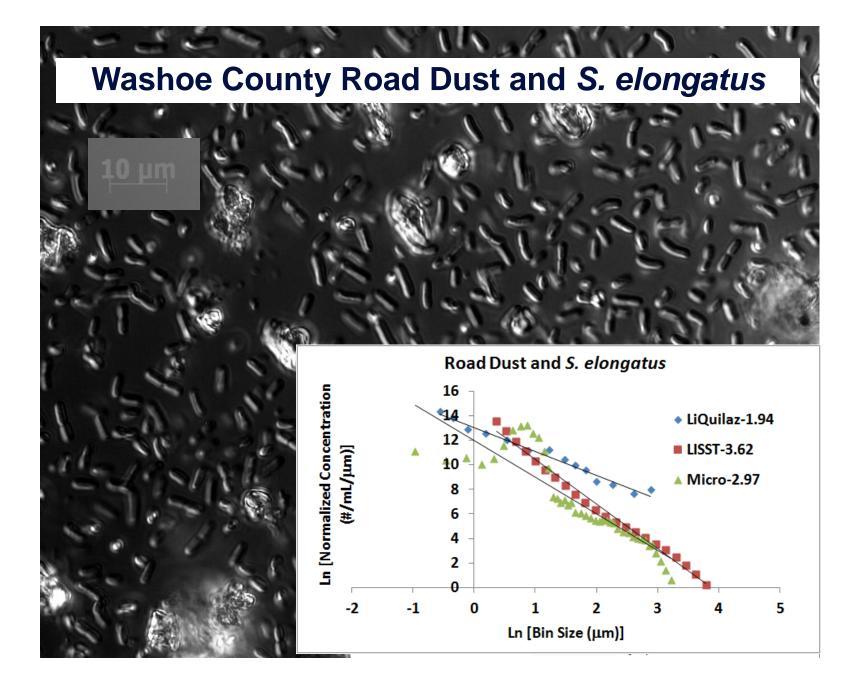




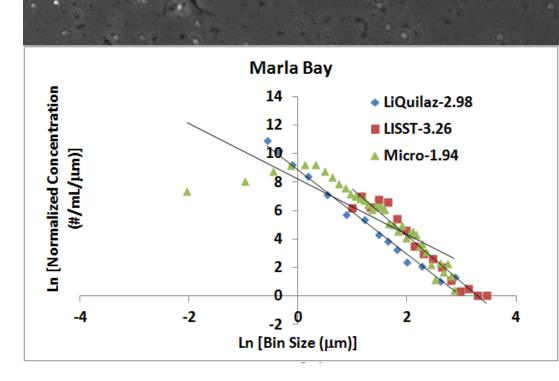
F. crotonensis

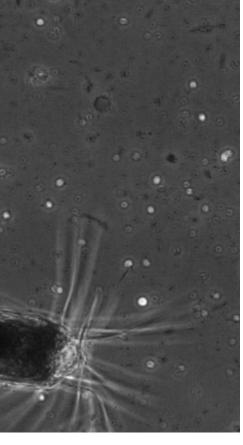
A. formosa

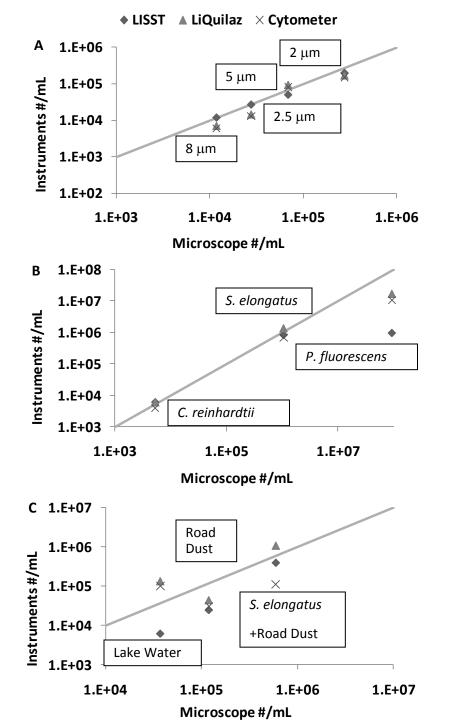




Marla Bay (0m), Lake Tahoe, CA-NV







Conclusions

> All particle counting methods introduce error

> The "real" PSD is hard to know

Despite differences, PSD estimates need not hinder management because measurement error is sufficiently small.

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AGEN

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ENVIRON







TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

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Questions?

Before I came here I was confused about the subject. Having listened to your lecture I am still confused. But on a higher level.

- Enrico Fermi

