

$a = 2.303 (A/L(m))$

same as:

$\log_{10} (I_t/I_o)$

$I_t$  = radiance

incidence

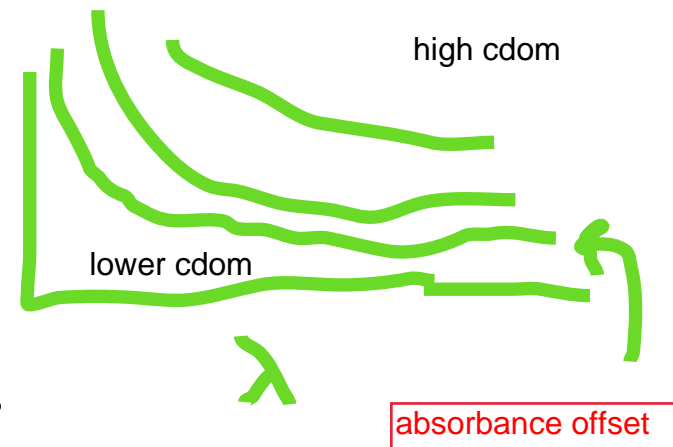
$I_o$  = transmitted  
radiance

$L$  = pathlength

$A$  = Absorbance

(really is  
measuring optical  
density)

$C_d = A$



# Lecture 5

# Measuring Absorption

Collin Roesler and Emmanuel Boss

11 July 2017

If the curve flattens at NIR, conventionally you make it to zero.

CDOM is not supposed to scatter in the NIR, so people often remove it. Emm says that sometimes that is the right thing to do and sometimes it isn't.

Ppl say that physics of absorption don't predict that flattening.

# How do we measure absorption in the ocean?

- Discrete samples in the lab
  - Cuvettes
  - Quantitative filter technique
- In situ meters
  - ac meters
  - integrating cavity absorption meters



Collin says they  
don't work

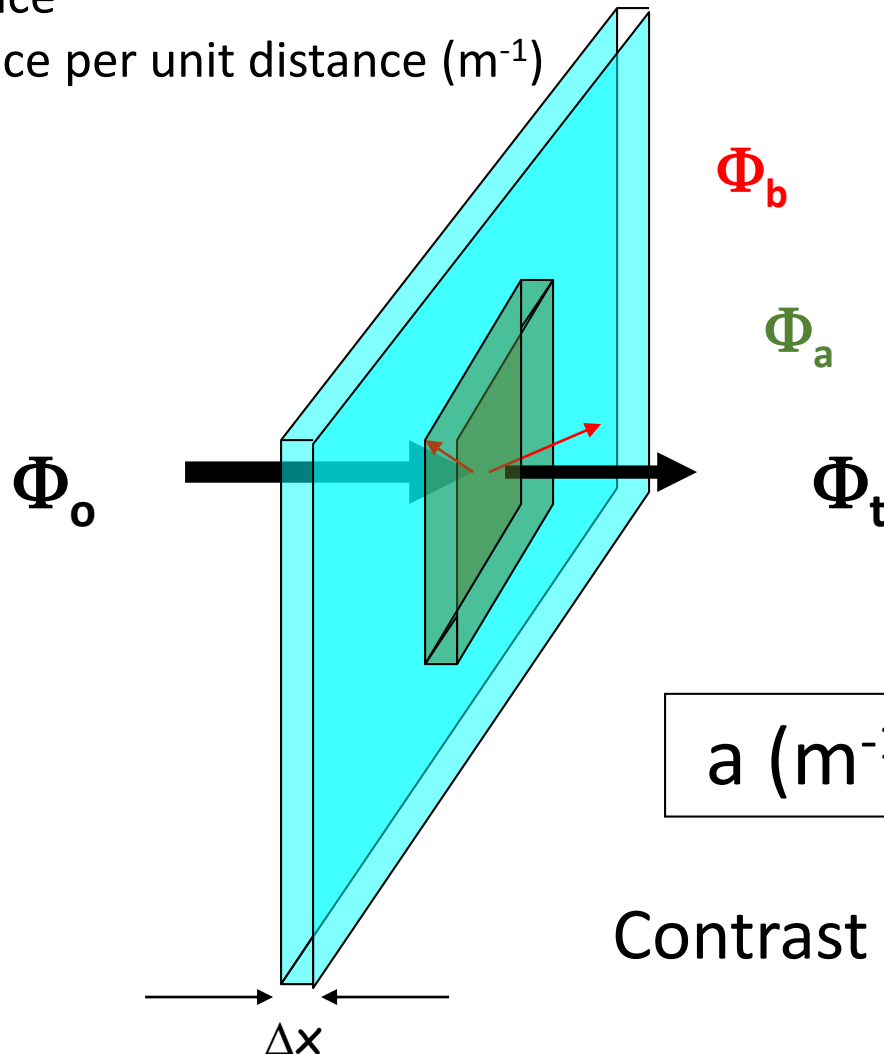
# Remember Absorption Theory

A = absorbance

a = absorbance per unit distance ( $\text{m}^{-1}$ )

$$A = \Phi_a / \Phi_o$$

$$a = A / \Delta x$$



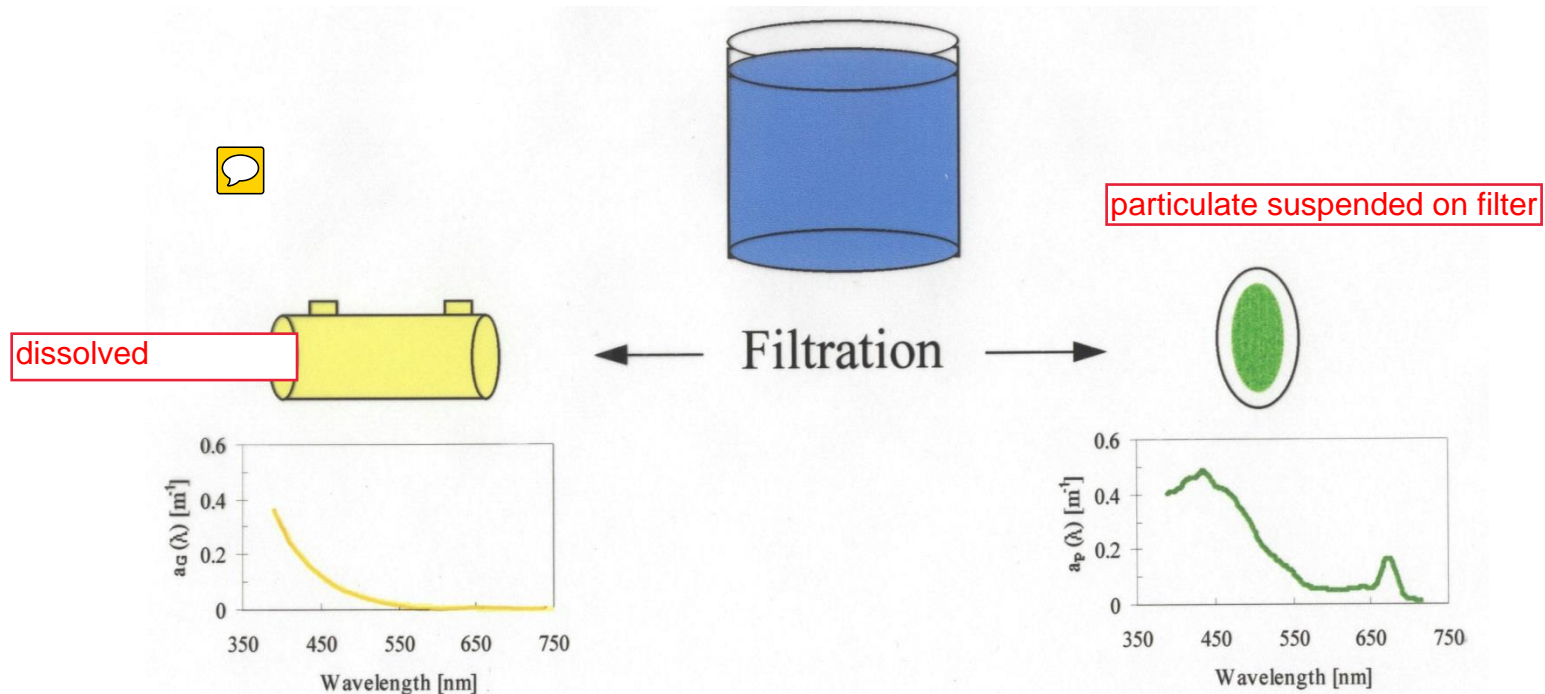
$$a \text{ (m}^{-1}\text{)} = (-1/x) \ln(\Phi_t / \Phi_o)$$

Contrast to measuring beam c



# Absorption:

## Discrete spectrophotometry



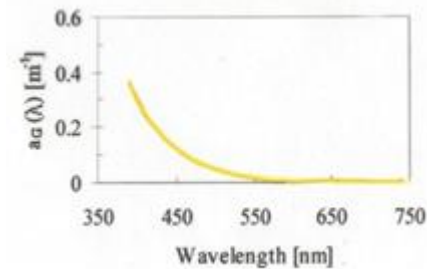
- Separates particles from *dissolved*
- Concentrates particles from dilute medium

# Absorption: “ved” absorption

cavity  
spectrophotometer

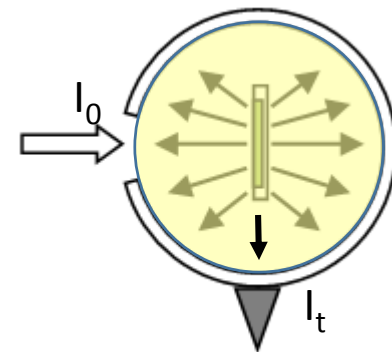
We are measuring transmittance/reflectance (no units) which is Absorbance (A) and then we will convert to absorbance (a) using the pathlength.

Measure fresh if you can

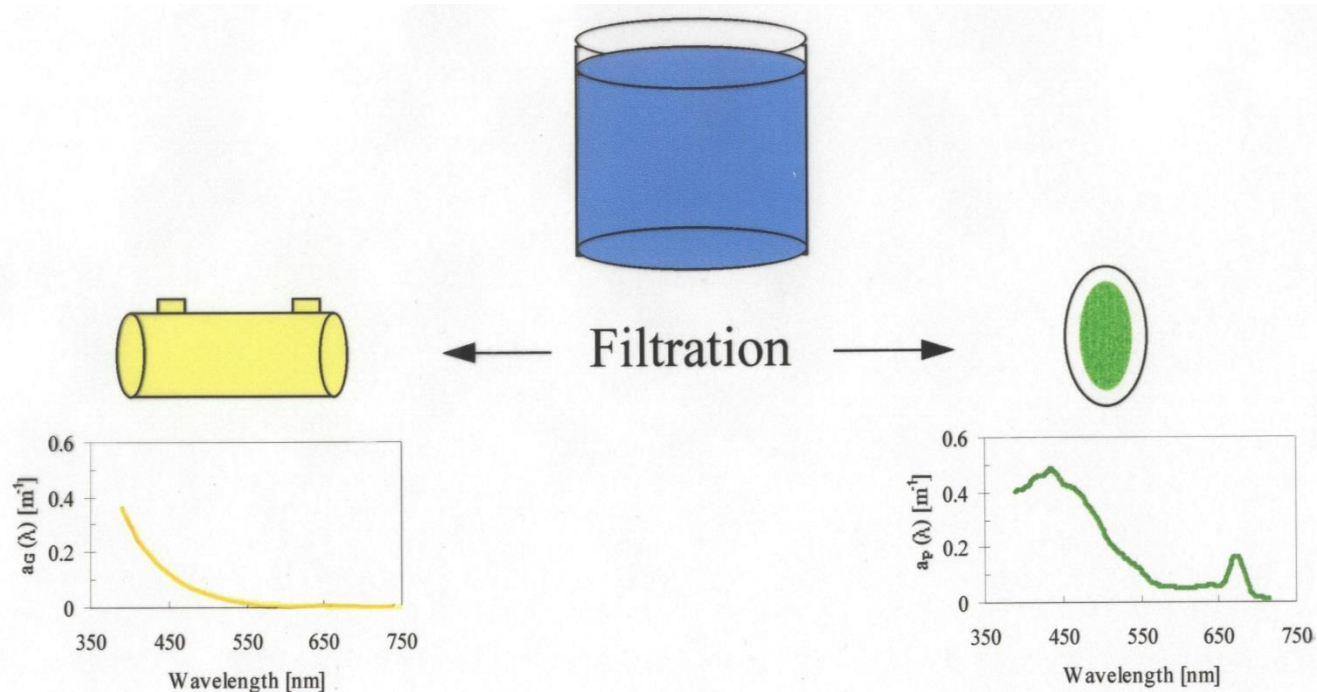


- How does spectrophotometer represent the theory?
- What are the assumptions of this method
- When might this assumption fail?

Too much CDOM,  
too long of a  
pathlength,  
particles that  
scatter light, or if  
scattering is not  
collected



# Absorption: Quantitative Filter Technique

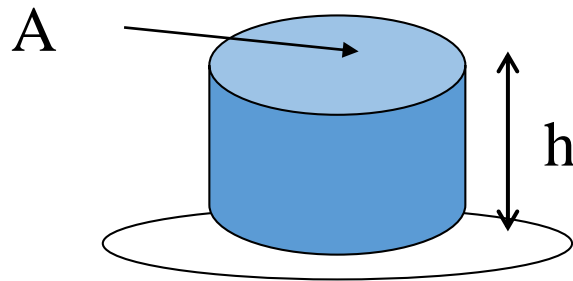


- Separates particles from *dissolved*
- Concentrates particles from dilute medium

# Measure in Spectrophotometer Integrating Sphere Mode

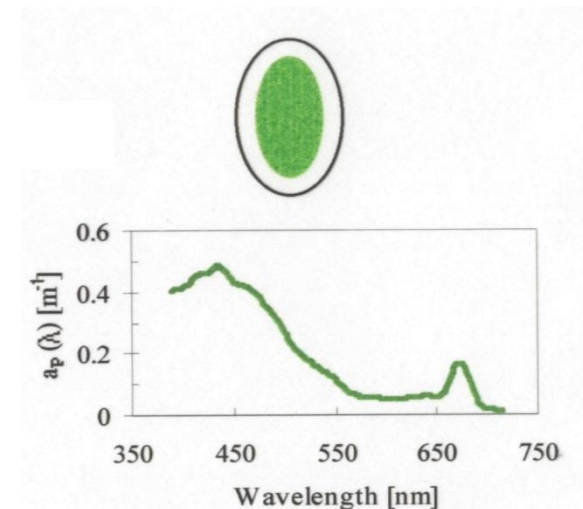
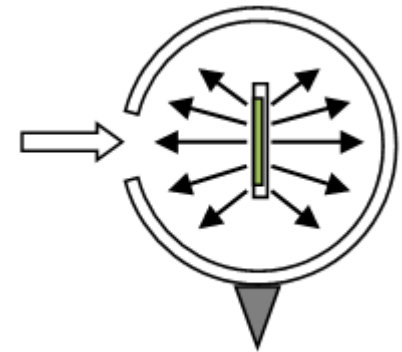
- Baseline: mean blank filter pad scans
- Sample scans: mean of filters, rotations
- Compute absorption from absorbance

$$a \text{ (m}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{2.303 \text{ OD}}{L \text{ (m)}} \quad \text{What is } L?$$



$$V_{\text{filtered}} = A_{\text{eff}} h$$

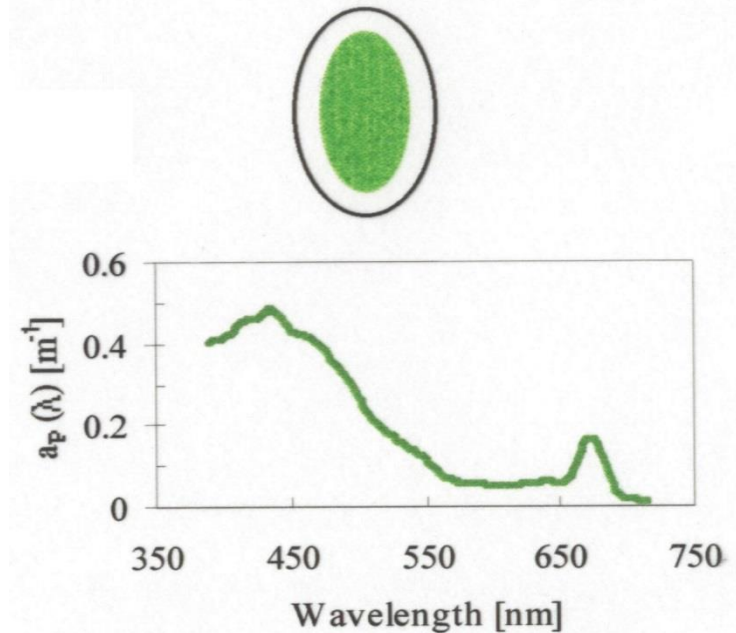
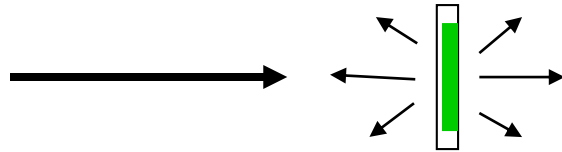
$$L = h = \frac{V \text{ (m}^3\text{)}}{A \text{ (m}^2\text{)}}$$



# What about the scattering by the filter?

## Path length amplification

$$a \text{ (m}^{-1}\text{)} = 2.303 \frac{\text{OD}}{\frac{V(\text{m}^3)}{A(\text{m}^2)}} .$$



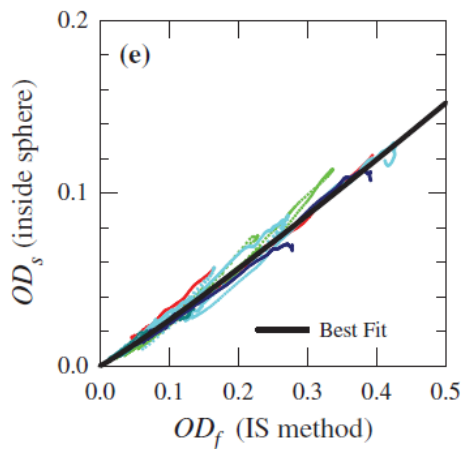
- Filter pad
  - Creates nearly isotropic light field
  - Increases optical path length
  - Increases absorption signal
  - How to correct for it?



# $\beta$ correction: path length amplification

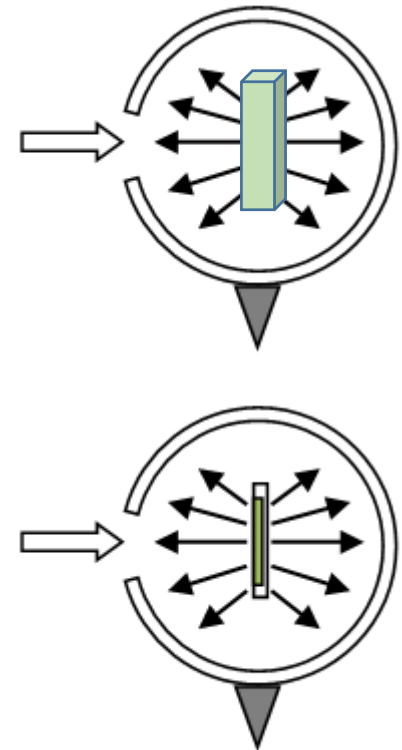
- Approach

- Cultures or samples
- Measure absorbance in cuvette (IS-mode)
- Measure absorbance on filter pad (IS-mode)
- Determine ratio,  $\beta = \frac{OD_f}{OD_s} = \frac{\text{optical}}{\text{geometric}}$
- Correct  $OD_f$ , then compute a



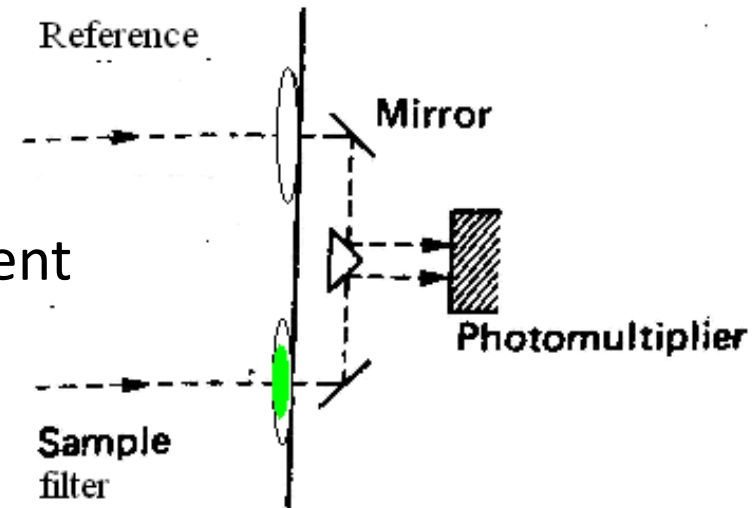
$$OD_s = 0.323 OD_f^{1.0867}$$

Beta effect - used  
to correct for filter  
pad.



# Measure in Spectrophotometer Transmission Mode (if you don't have an integrating sphere)

- Reference (neutral density filter)
  - Match optical density of filter pad
  - No variability
- Baseline
  - Blank filter pad in sample compartment
- Samples



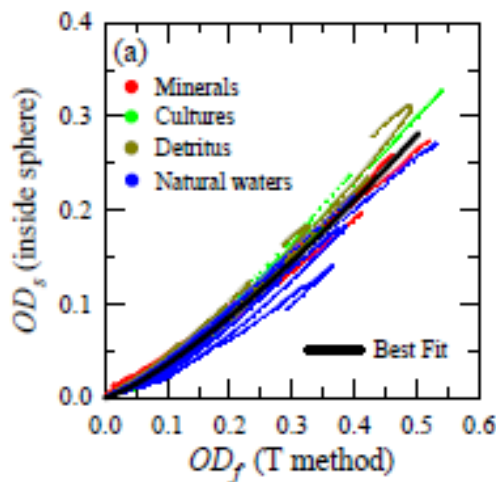
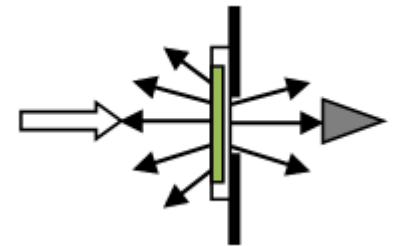
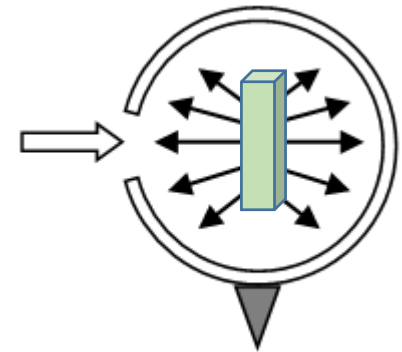
In this mode you are losing ALL the scattered light. She uses a quartz filter as a reference

# $\beta$ correction: path length amplification



- Approach

- Cultures or samples
- Measure absorption in cuvette (IS-mode)
- Measure absorption on filter pad (T-mode)
- Determine ratio,  $\beta = \frac{OD_f}{OD_s} = \frac{\text{optical}}{\text{geometric}}$
- Correct  $A_f$ , then compute a



$$OD_s = 0.679 OD_f^{1.2804}$$



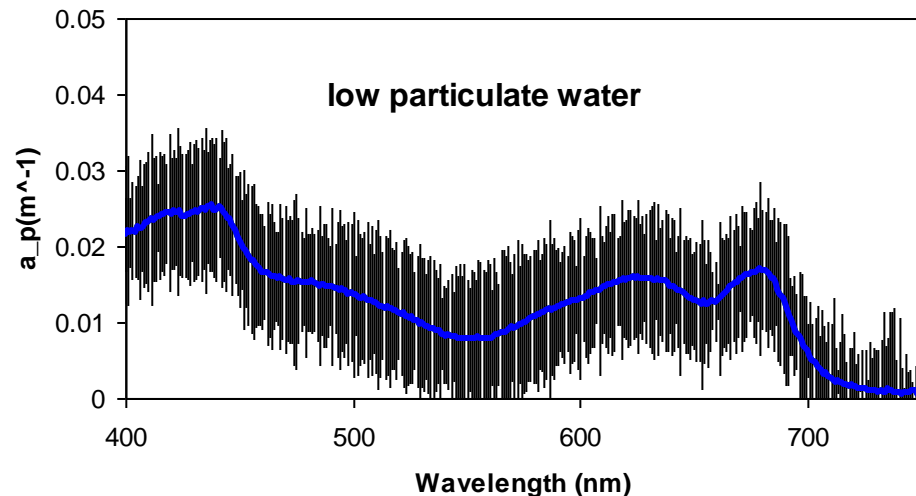
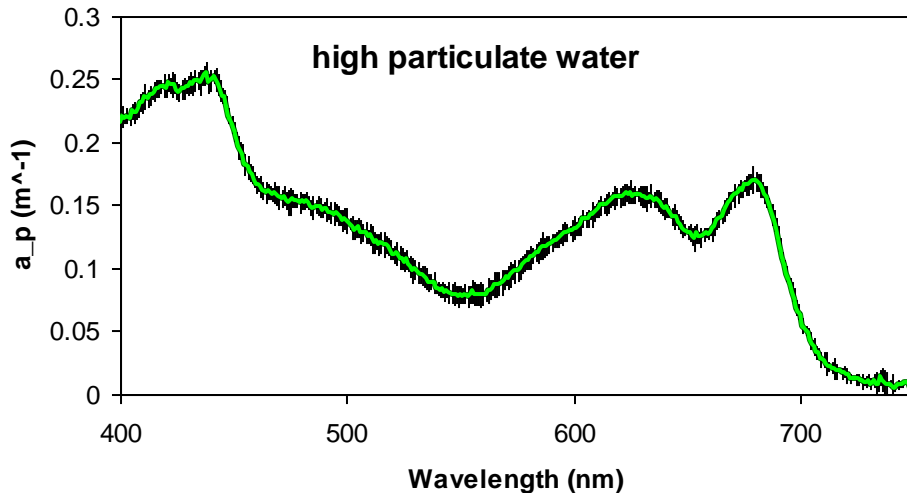
# Uncertainty calculation

$$a \text{ (m}^{-1}\text{)} = 2.303 \frac{\text{OD}}{\frac{V(\text{m}^3)}{A(\text{m}^2)}} .$$

- Run three blank pads relative to your baseline
- Compute the standard deviation of the blank scans,  $\sigma_{\text{ODbl}}(\lambda)$
- substitute  $\sigma_{\text{ODbl}}(\lambda)$  for OD in the above equation to compute  $\sigma_a(\lambda)$
- note that the uncertainty will be different for each sample:
  - V is different for every sample
  - OD is different, sample is different, so the signal:noise will be different

$$\sigma_a \text{ (m}^{-1}\text{)} = 2.303 \frac{\sigma_{\text{ODbl}}}{\frac{V_{\text{sample}}(\text{m}^3)}{A(\text{m}^2)}} .$$

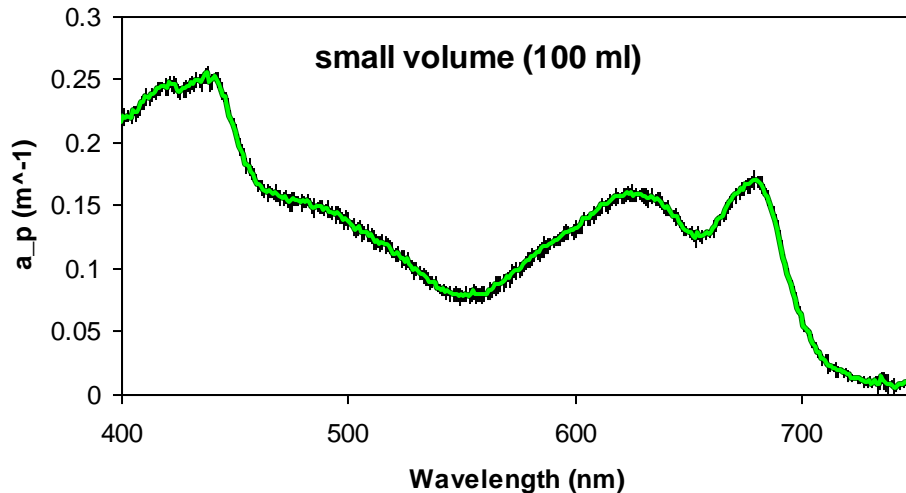
# Uncertainty example 1: impact of sample optical density



- Same volume filtered for each sample (100ml)
- $OD_{\text{sample1}} \sim 10 * OD_{\text{sample2}}$  (approx 0.1 vs 0.01)
- $OD_{\text{filter blanks}} \sim OD_{\text{sample2}}$  for low particulate waters

Higher signal to noise ratio in low particulate water. It is the same magnitude of uncertainty but the relative uncertainty is larger in the low part. waters . It says you should have filtered more.

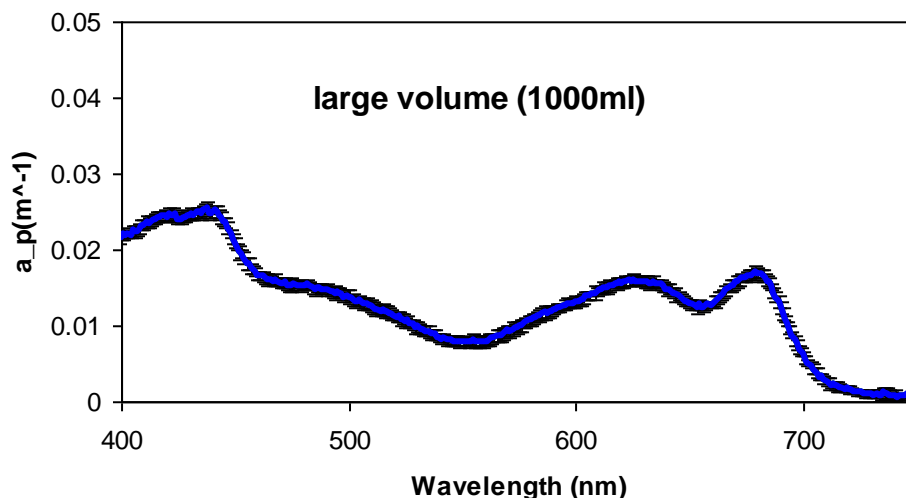
# Uncertainty example 2: impact of volume filtered



- Different V filtered for each sample (100ml vs 1000ml)

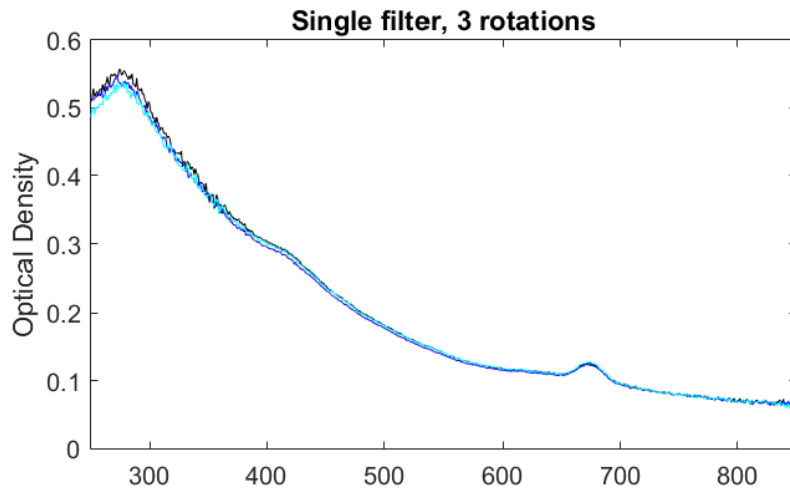
- $OD_{\text{sample1}} = OD_{\text{sample2}} (\sim 0.1)$

- $\sigma_{OD_{\text{filter blank}}} \sim 10\% OD_{\text{sample}}$

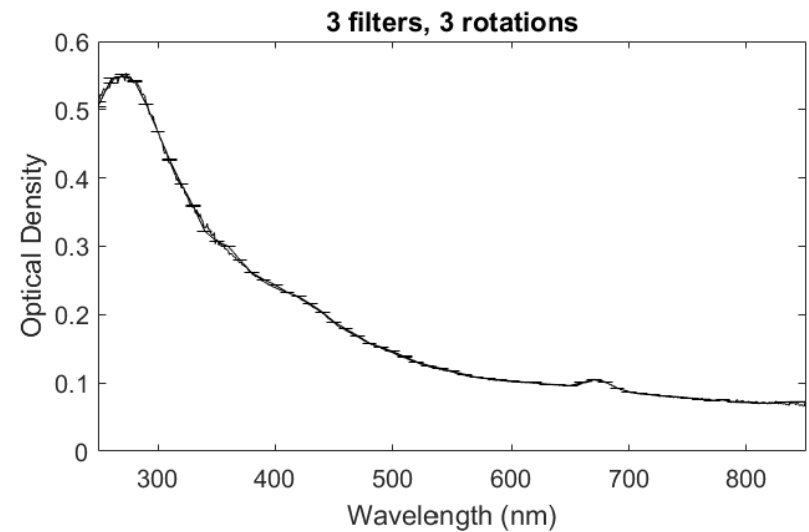
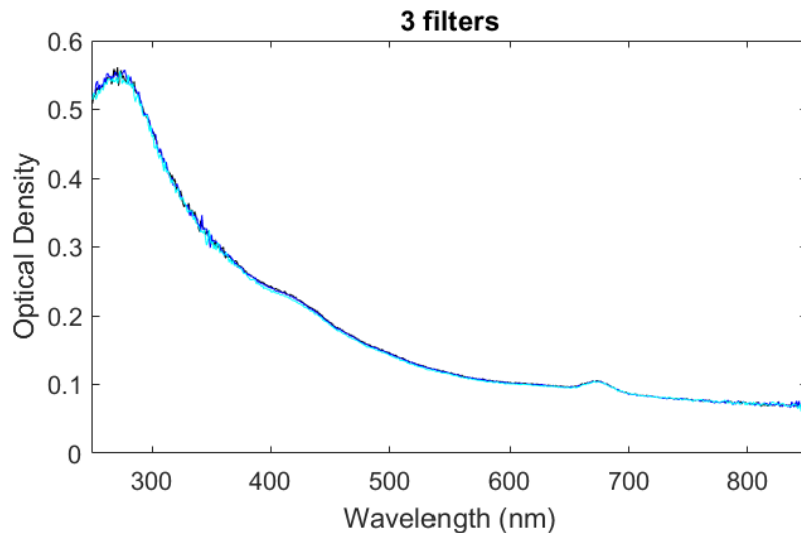


Better to **filter more volume**  
and obtain  
**higher  $OD_{\text{sample}}$**  relative to blanks

# Uncertainty Budget

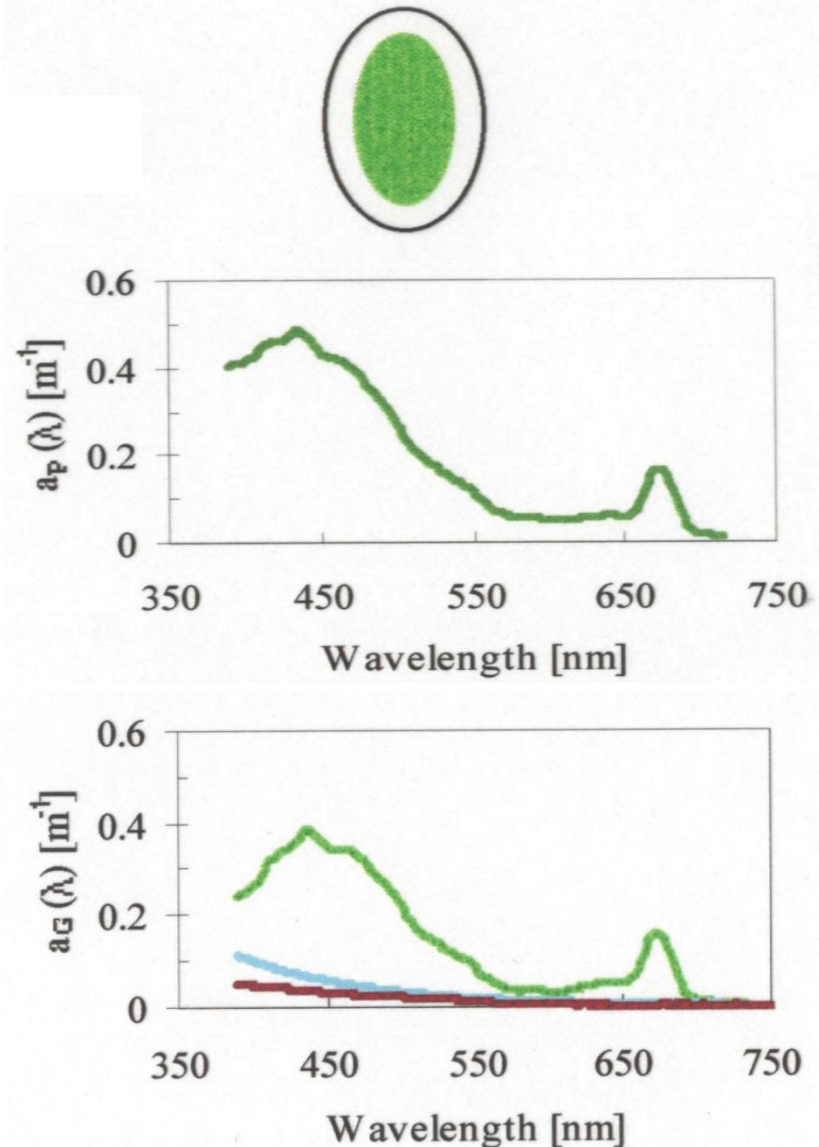


This is the blank filter pad.





# Partitioning particulate absorption

- First scan is total particles,  $a_p$
- Extract with methanol and scan again,  $a_{nap}$  (red line)
- $a_{phyt} = a_p - a_{nap}$
- Other issues
  - Phytoplankton “parts”
  - Detrital pigments
  - Phycobilipigments
  - Inorganics





# Summary Filter pad technique

- Filter sample, want high loading to overcome the variability in the blank filter pad absorption itself, but not *muddy* (0.1 to 0.4 absorbance (OD)) 
- What is the reference?
- Extraction to separate particulates, nap
- Computation 
  - Offset correction or not? (Stramski and Babin 2002)
  - Absorption calculation,  $a_p$  and  $a_{nap}$
  - Phytoplankton calculation,  $a_{phyt} = a_p - a_{nap}$

You don't calculate it from the OD, you have to first translate OD to absorption

# WETLabs ac9/acs sensors

Water goes through tubes then through pump. One tube measures absorption and one measures attenuation (transmission) you subtract to get  $b$

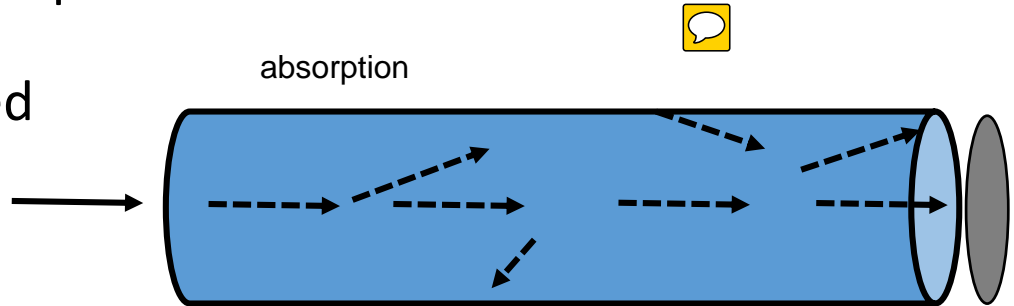


- **Quantitative** measurements of absorption and attenuation
- Calibrated with **pure water**
- Corrections
  - Temperature and salinity of samples relative to pure water calibration
  - Non-ideal configurations for absorption and attenuation
- Strategies for robust measurements

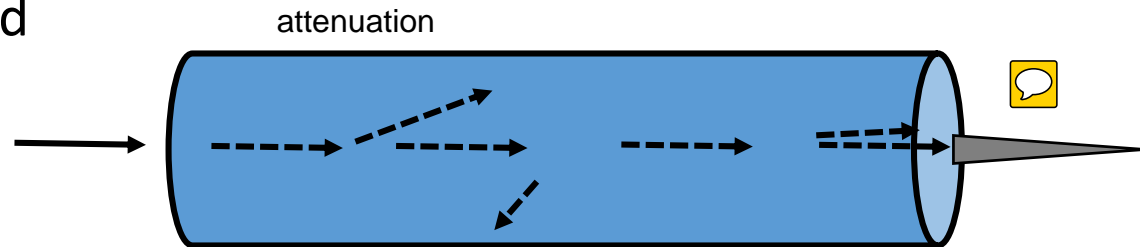
# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Measurement Reality – Sensors
  - Reflecting tube absorption meters

a - Maximize scattered  
light collection  
**absorption**



c – minimize scattered  
light collection  
**beam attenuation**



**b = c – a    scattering**

Some scattered light not collected by absorption tube, leads to overestimation of absorption → **correction**

Some scattered light collected by attenuation tube, leads to underestimation of attenuation → **report detection angle**

# Absorption from ac9/acs

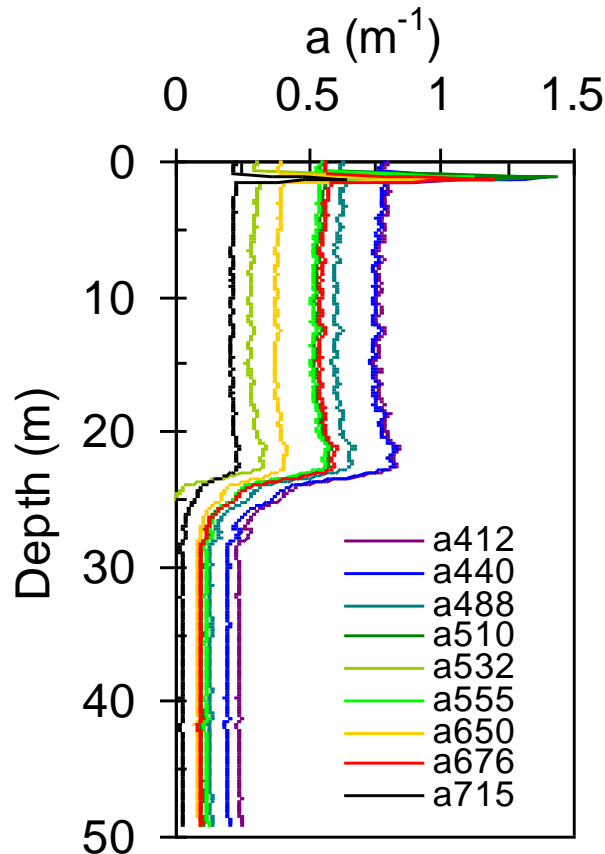
NEVER USE A  
FACTORY  
CALIBRATION



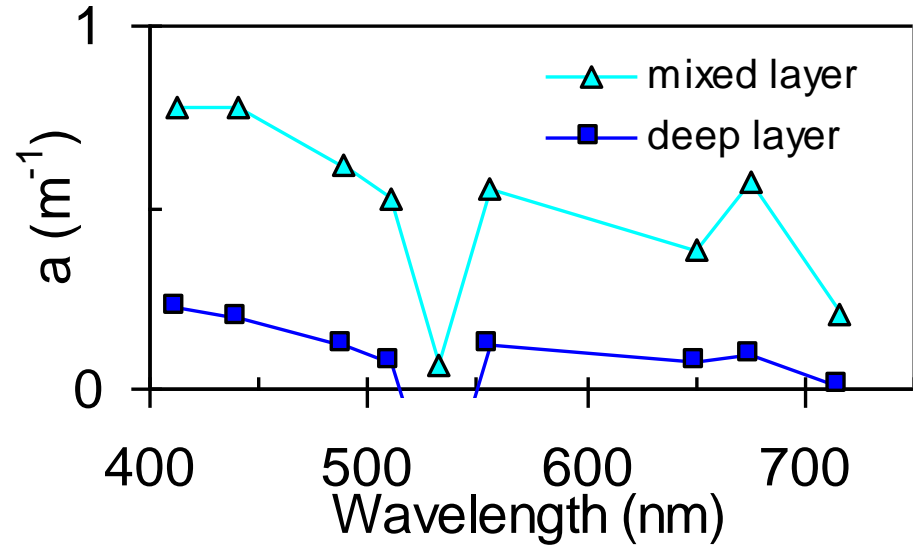
- Obtain from factory
- Calibrate\* in the lab
- Place in deployment configuration
  - Black tubing
  - Copper tubing
  - Air valve
  - Seat bottom
  - Bracket top
- Calibrate\* on the frame
- Deploy
  - Take to depth to purge
  - Remove upcast observations (pump inversion)
- Calibrate\* upon recovery

\*water calibration for quantitation  
air calibration to track instrument drift

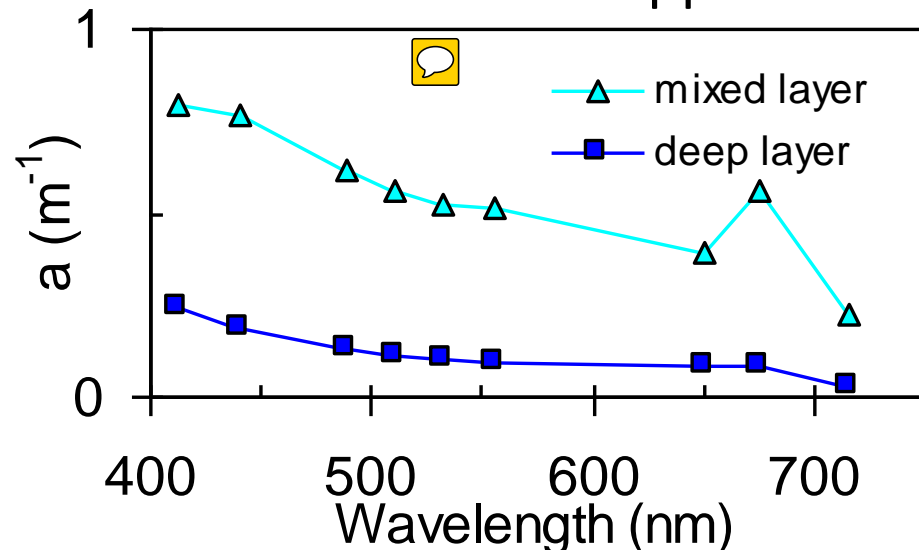
# Absorption from ac9 (acs same)



But spectra are problematic



water calibration applied

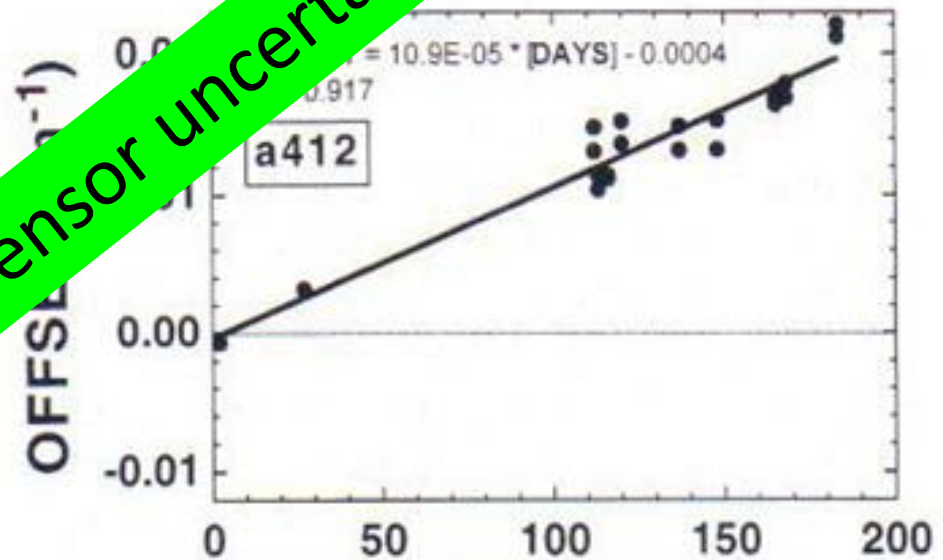
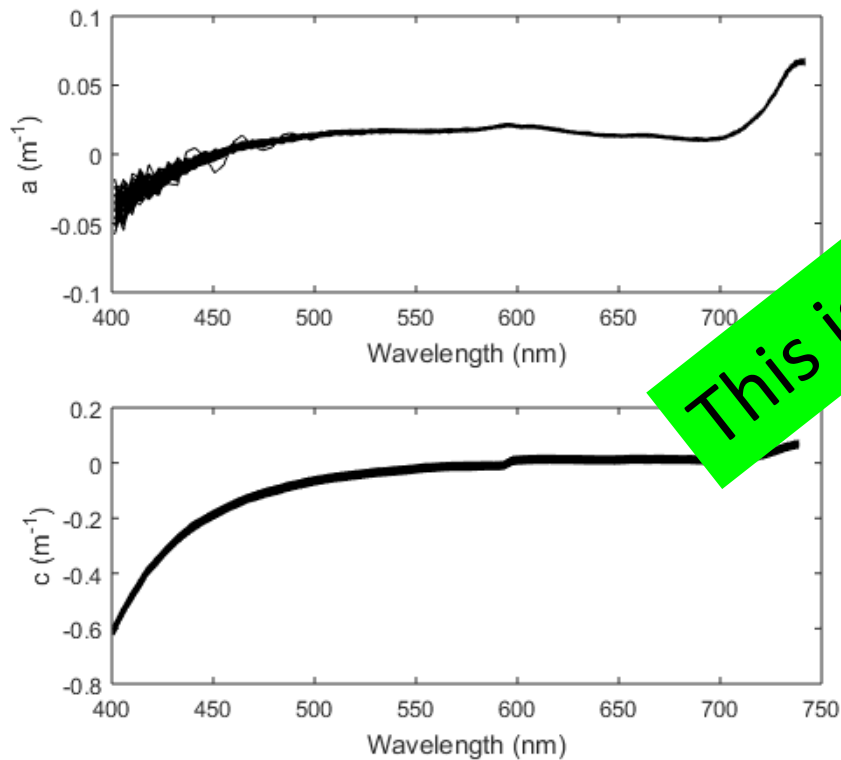


## 1. Pure water calibration

$$a = a_{\text{meas}} - a_{\text{H2O}}$$

# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example
  1. Measure pure water scans



Twardowski et al, 1997  
(true for  $a$  and  $c$ )



# The absorption/attenuation by water varies with temperature and salinity

If you calibrate at 25°C with fresh water but measure in the ocean at 10°C, you have not used a proper **calibration standard**

## Temperature

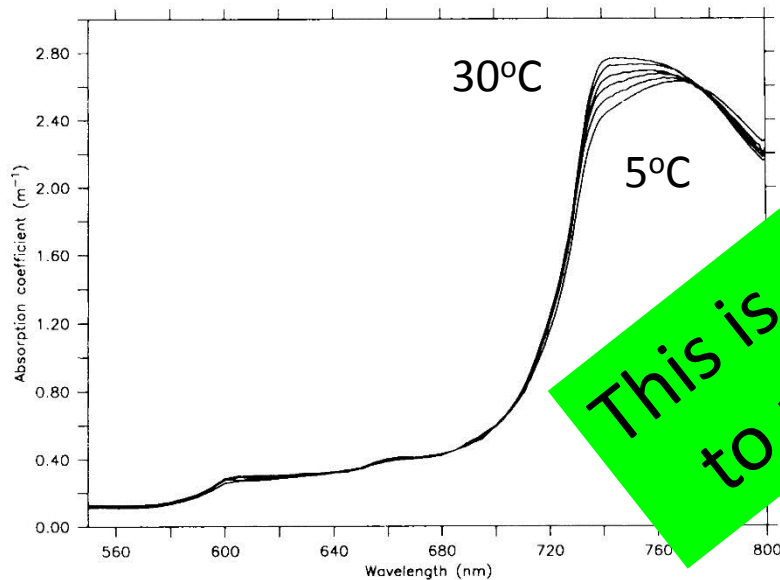
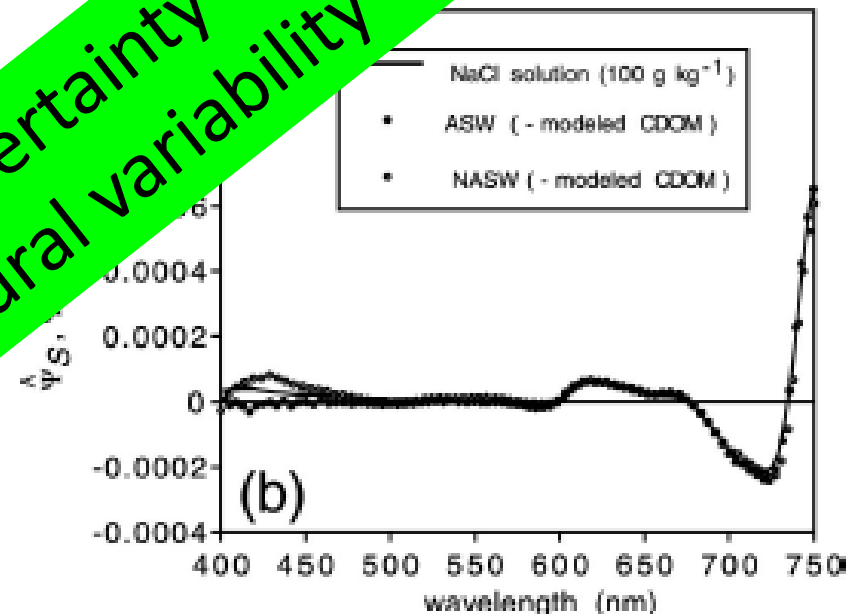


Fig. 3. Absorption coefficient from 550 to 800 nm adjusted at 685 nm to the value of Tam and Patel (1979). The curves represent absorption at temperatures of 5, 10, 15, 21, 25, and 30°C as read from bottom to top at 750 nm.

## Salinity

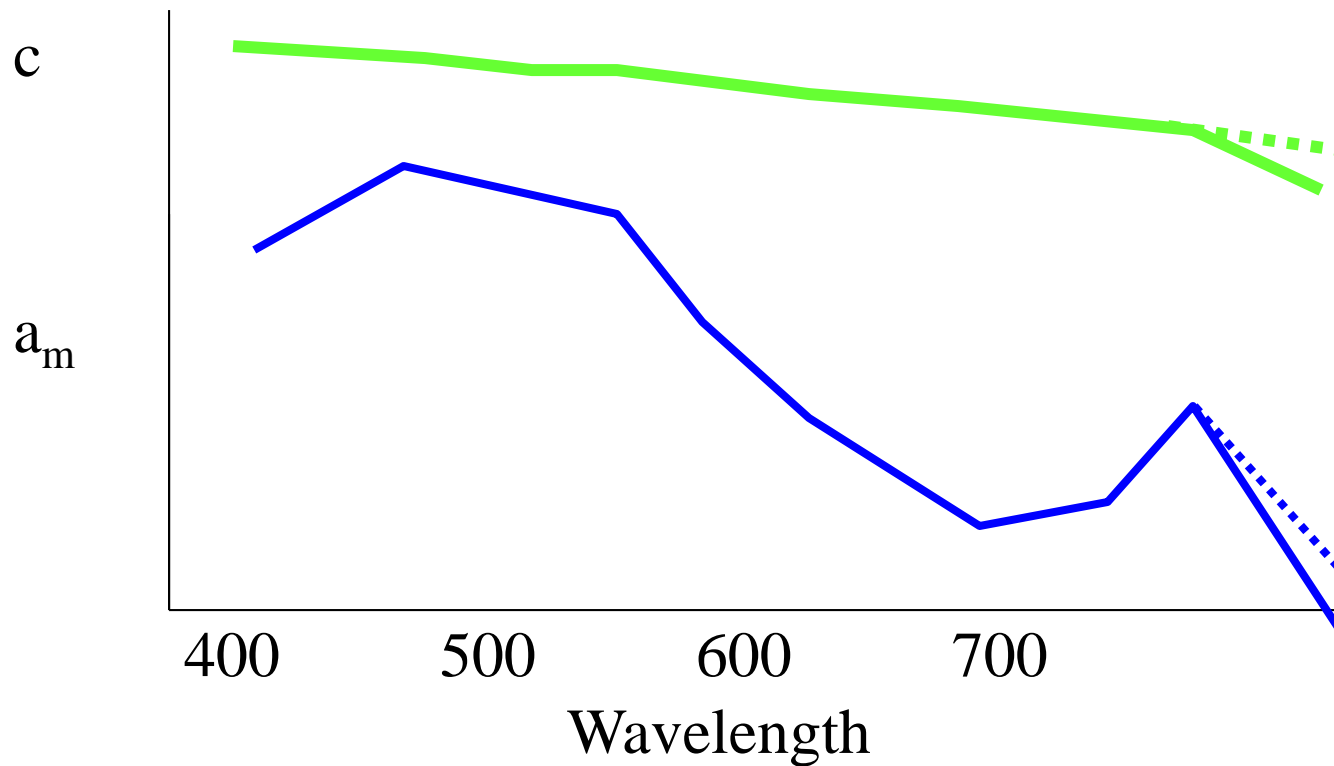


Sullivan et al. 2006 Applied Optics

Pegau and Zaneveld 1993 Limnol Oceanogr.

Pegau et al. 1997 Applied Optics

# Absorption from ac9



Peaks don't line up with the wavelengths you would expect

NUMbers are not in the right place on the X axis

Peak at 676

Why is it negative?  
T and S correction - bumps it up (dotted line) but then you have an offset



## 2. Temperature and salinity correction

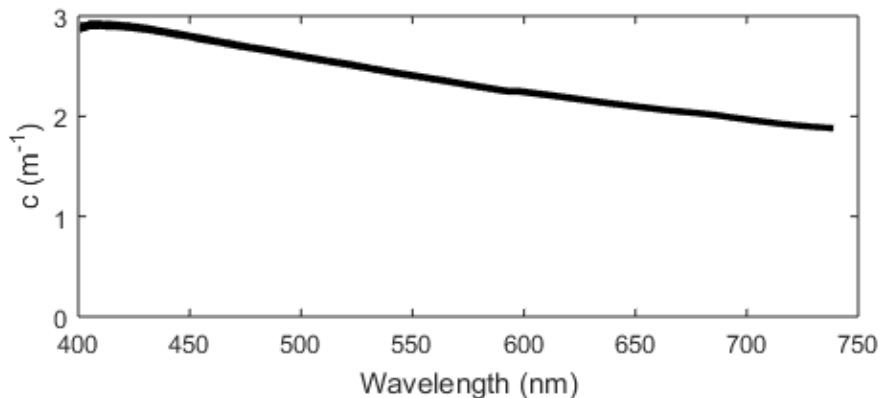
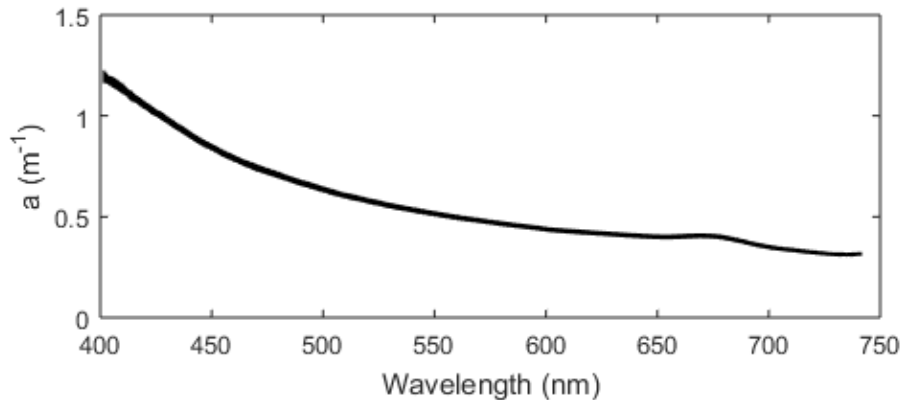
This is due to the fact that the in situ T and S are different than that of the calibration water

→ Requires measurement of T, S in situ



# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

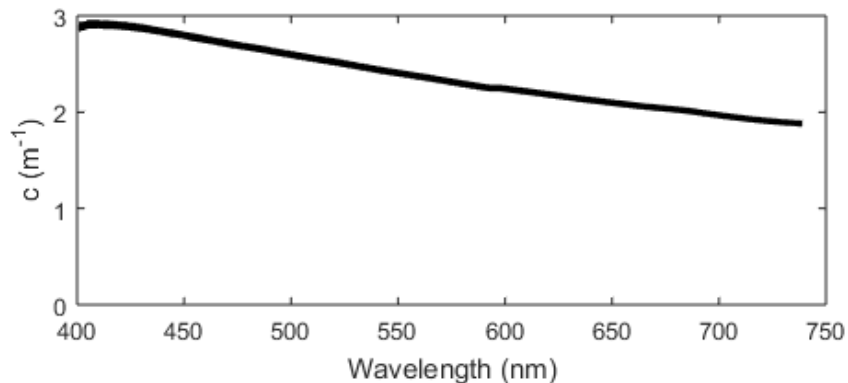
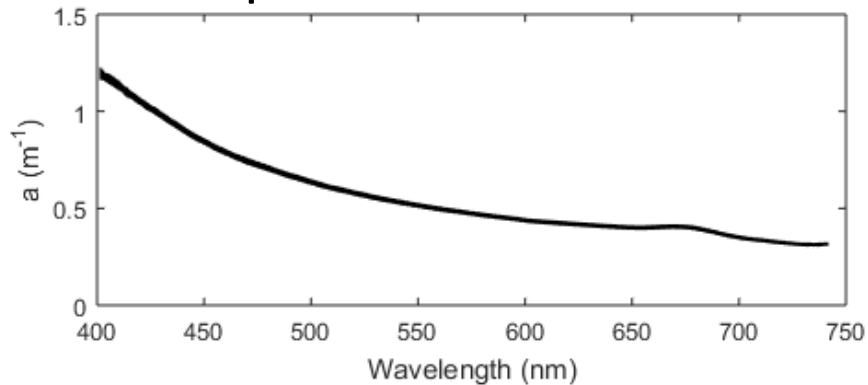
- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example
  - Collect sample scans
- 1. correct for T, S



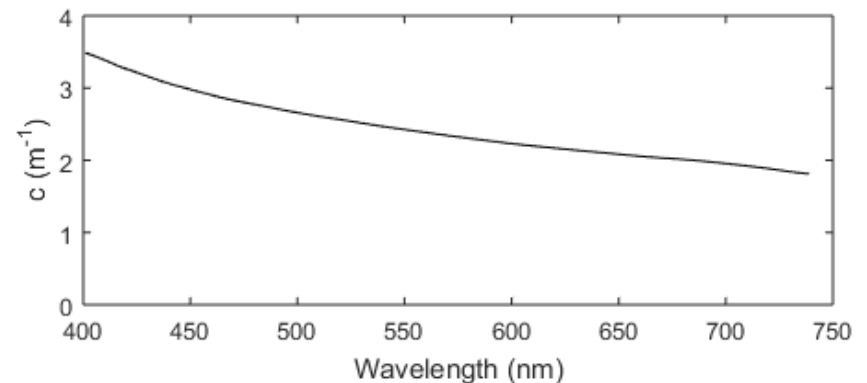
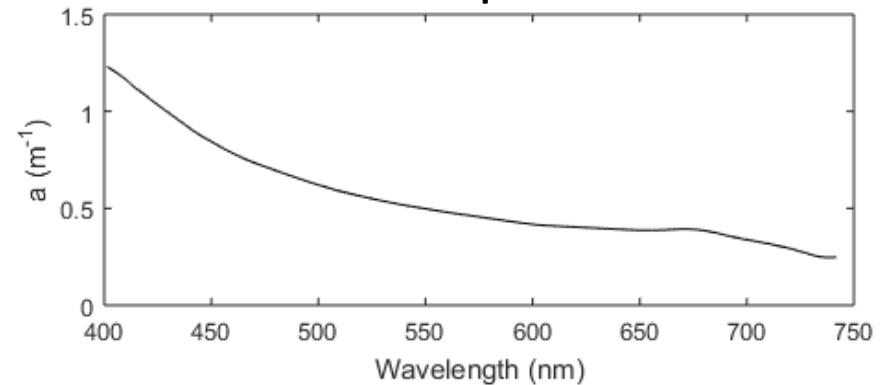
# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example
  2. Correct sample scans for pure water values (T, S corr)

sample scan



corrected for pure water



# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

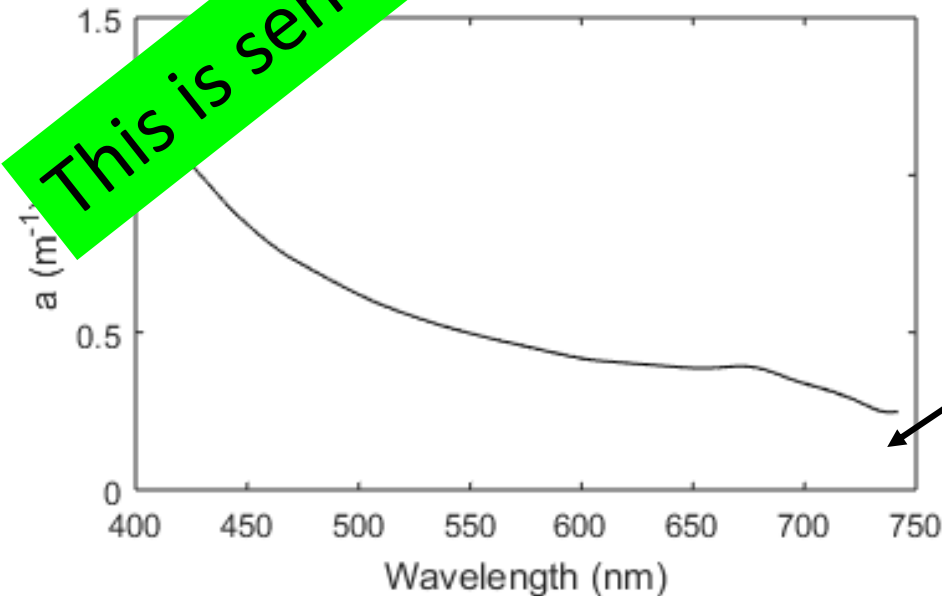
- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example

- 3. Scattering correct the absorption spec

find wavelength where absorption is ne

→ measured  $a$  is actually **scattering**

*if* T and S have been accurately measured for



This is sensor uncertainty



# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

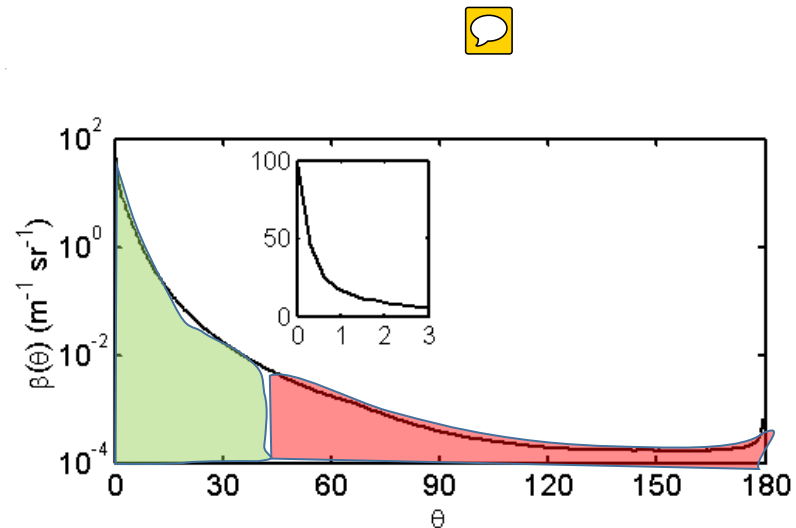
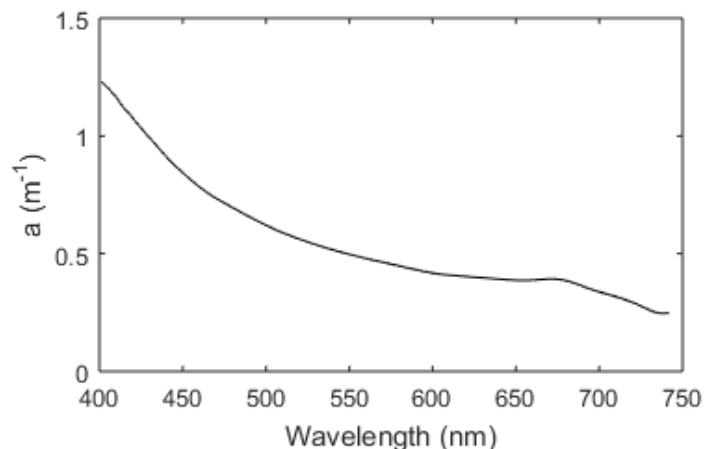
- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example

### 3. Scattering correct the absorption spectra

we know the ac meters collect scattered light 0 to 40°

so miss >40° or back and side scattering

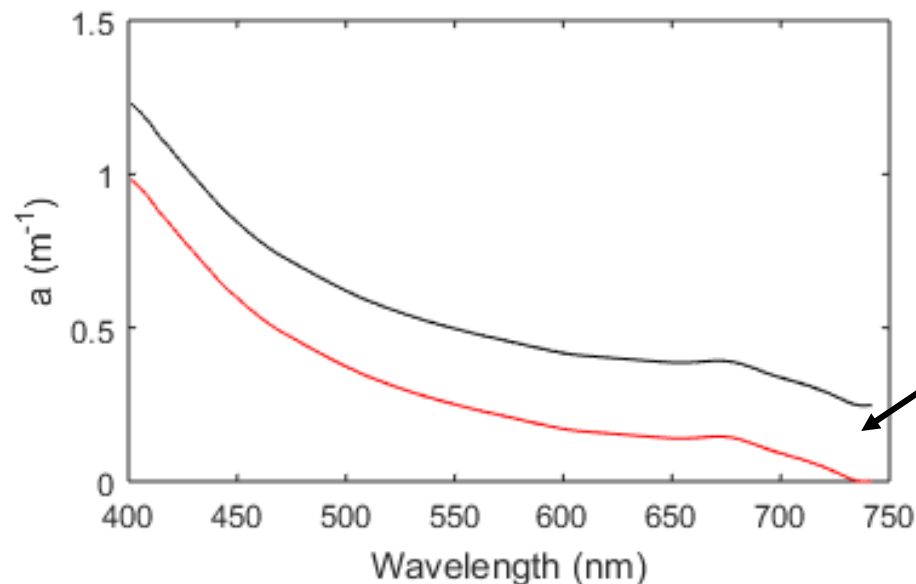
how do we best correct the  $a$  for scattering loss?



Why does scattering generate NIR absorption? IT is because the scattering is backscattering (which shows up as absorbance because it doesn't get returned to the sensor)

# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example
  3. Scattering correct the absorption spectra
    - a. Subtract  $a_m(\text{NIR}) \rightarrow$  “there is no NIR absorption”  
“b not a function of  $\lambda$ ”  
spectrophotometric approach



# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example

- 3. Scattering correct the absorption spectra

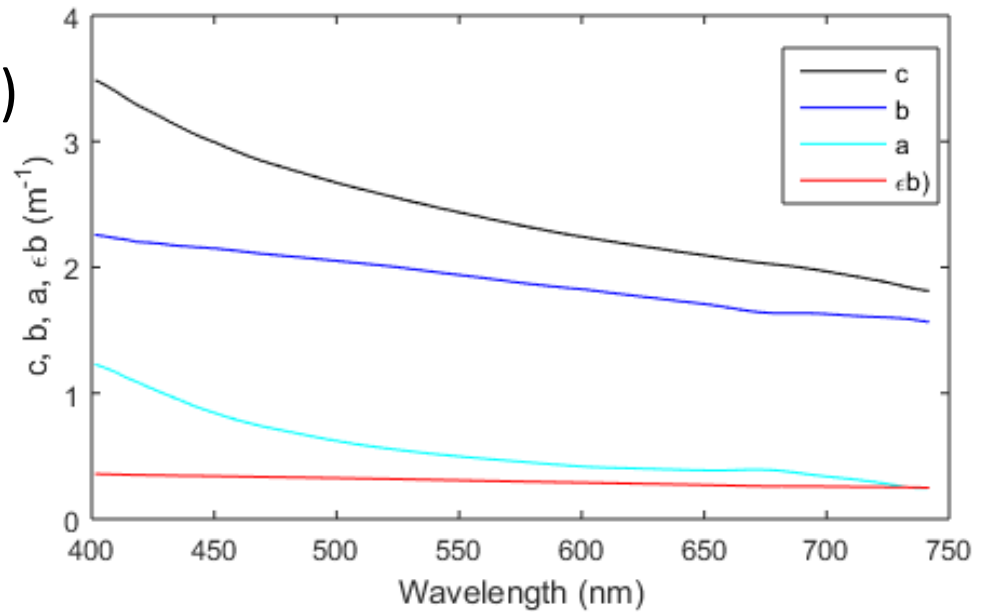
- b. Subtract spectral scattering contribution, fraction of  $b(\lambda)$   
“there is no NIR absorption”

$$b(\lambda) = c(\lambda) - a(\lambda)$$

if  $a(\text{NIR}) = 0$  signal is due to scattering

$$fb(\lambda) = a(\text{NIR})/b(\text{NIR})$$

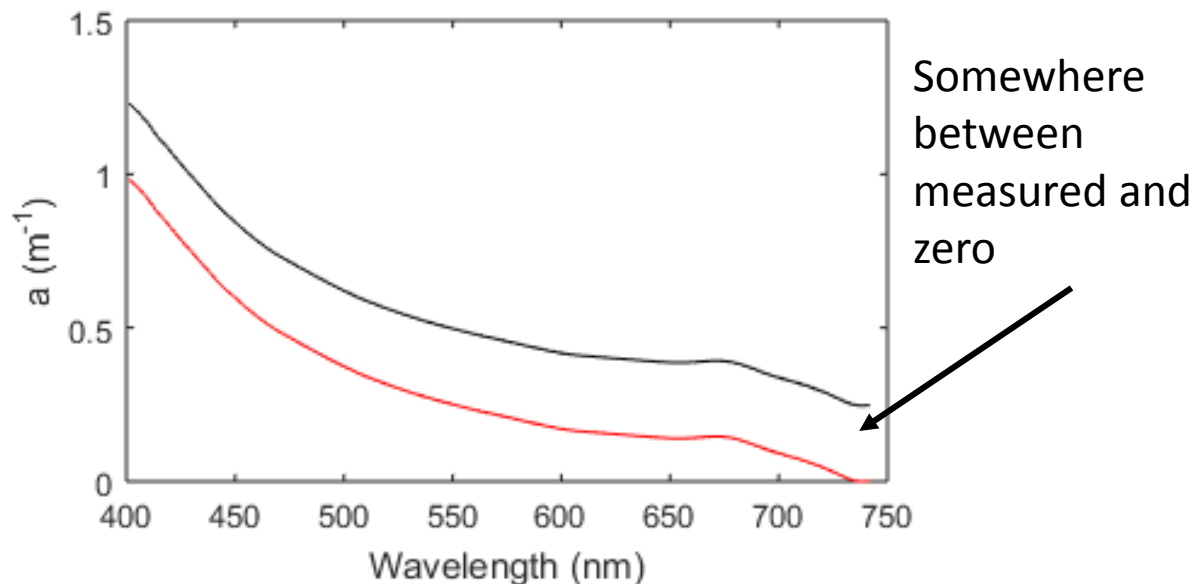
$$a_{\text{corr}}(\lambda) = a(\lambda) - (fb(\lambda) * b(\lambda))$$



# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example
  3. Scattering correct the absorption spectra
    - a. Subtract some fraction of the NIR signal → “there is some NIR absorption”

This is an active area of research!!!



Röttgers et al 2007

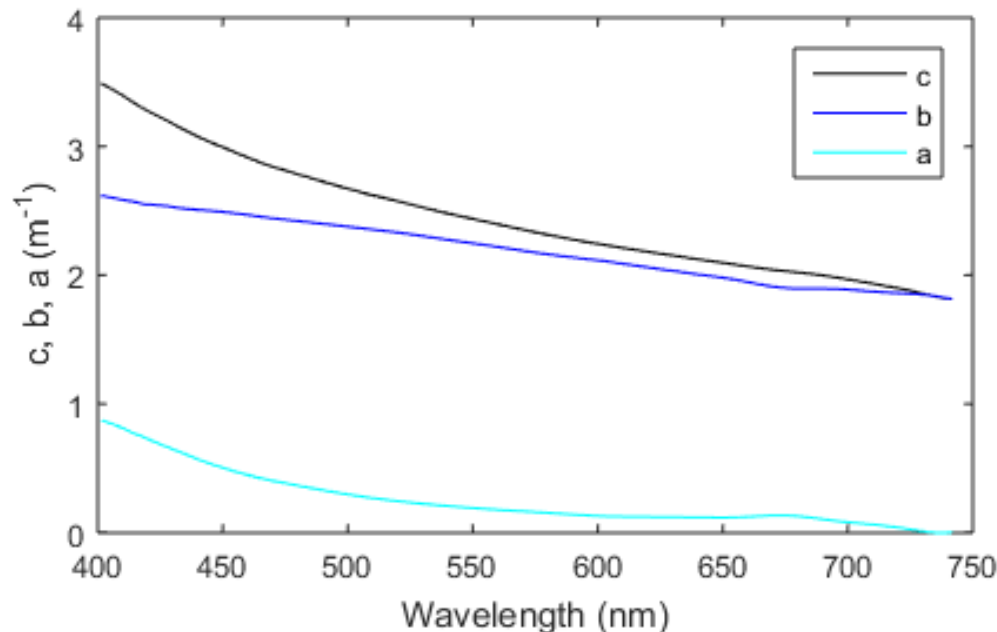
Röttgers et al 2013

# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example

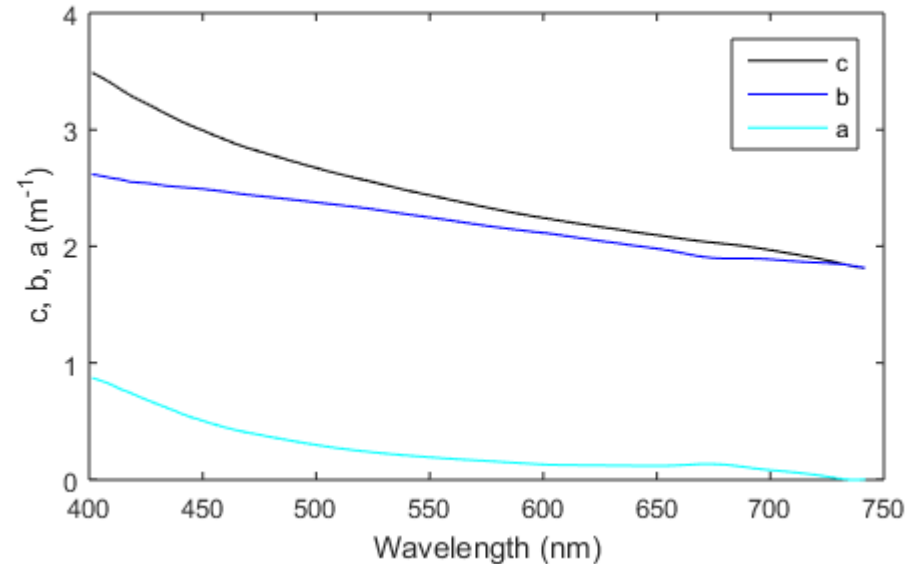
4. Compute Scattering spectra

$$b(\lambda) = c(\lambda) - a(\lambda)$$





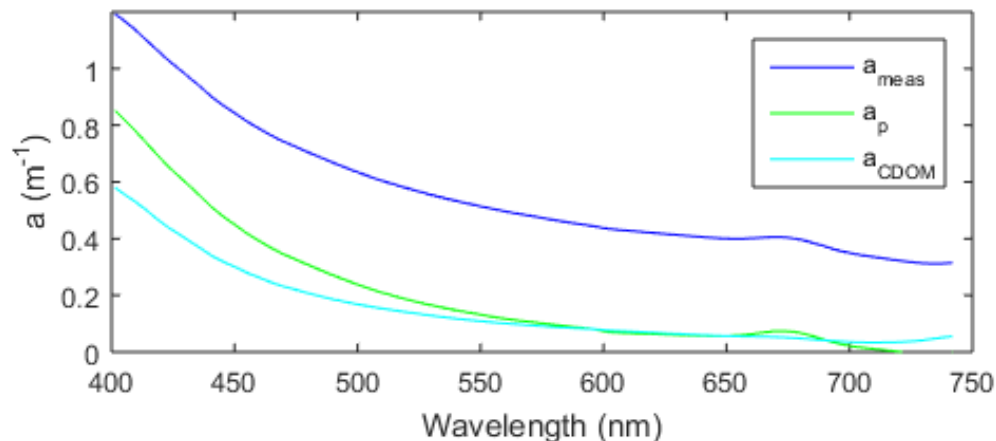
# Best practices for obtaining Absorption/Attenuation from acs



- Review Data processing
  - Temperature/Salinity correct a and c of sample and calibration data
  - Subtract T,S-corrected pure water calibration from sample scans
  - Apply scattering correction to absorption
  - Compute scattering spectrum ( $b = c - a$ )

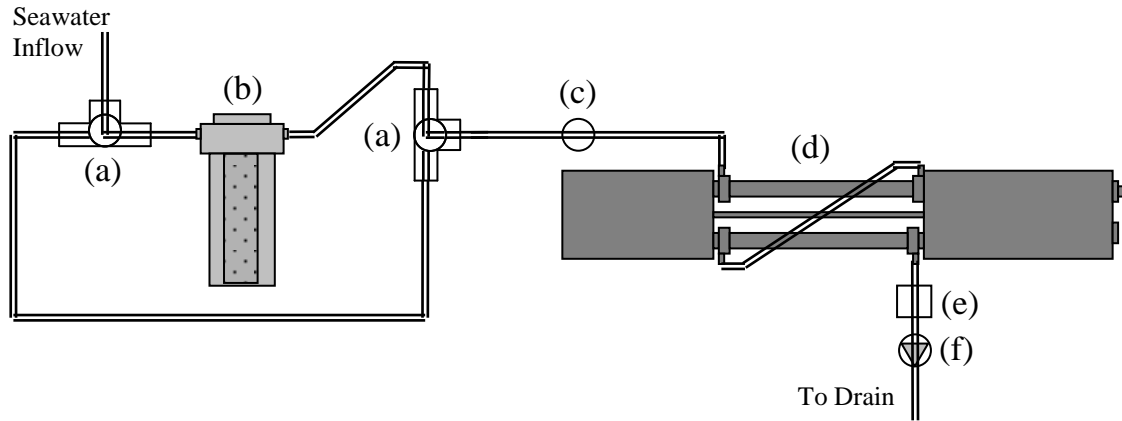
# Bio-optical Sensors - Absorption

- Data Analysis and Interpretation – acs example
  - **Calibration independent** method for partitioning
  - (Slade et al. 2010)
    - Measure whole water and filtered water,  $a_{\text{tot}}$ ,  $a_{\text{filt}}$
    - Apply Temperature, Salinity correction
    - Apply Scattering correction
    - Subtract filtered water scan from whole water scan,  $a_{\text{part}} = a_{\text{tot}} - a_{\text{filt}}$
    - Yields  $a_{\text{CDOM}}$  and  $a_{\text{part}}$  ***independent of calibration drift***

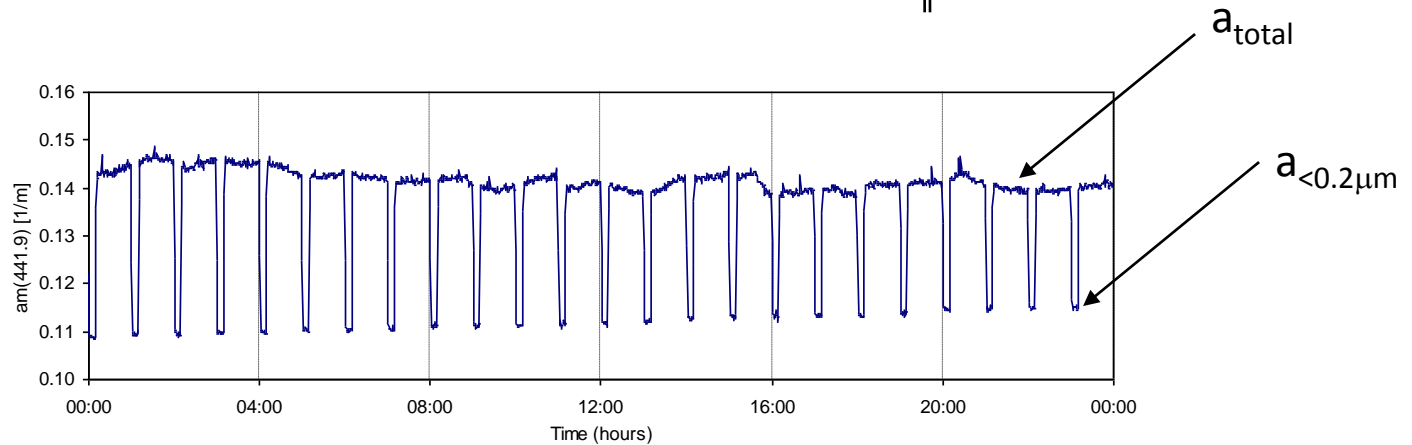


# Automated shipboard flow-through method, calibration-independent

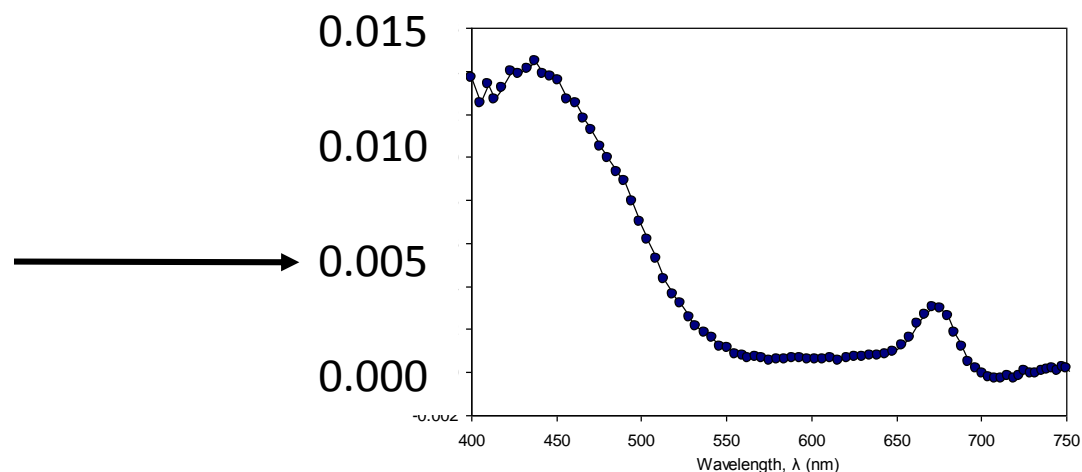
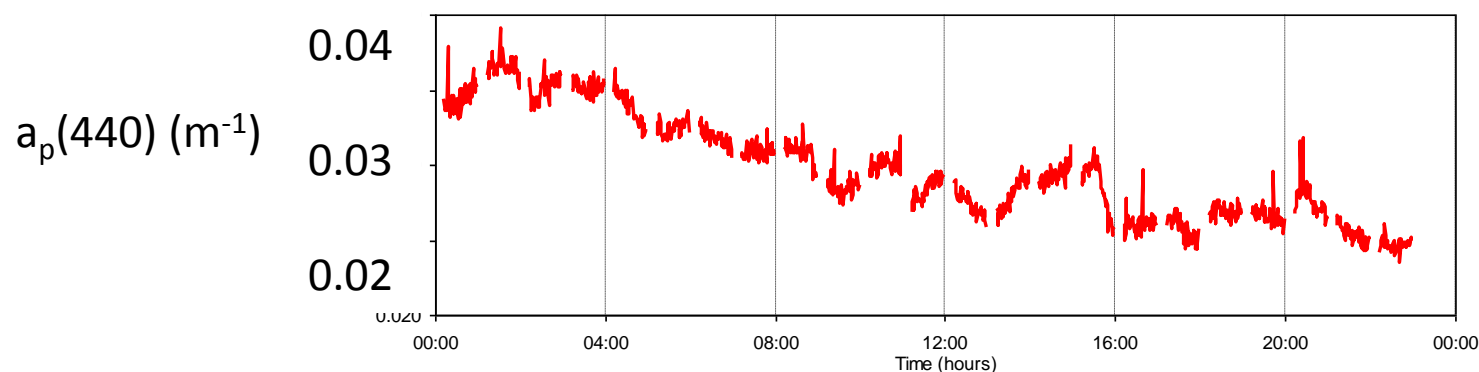
a switch that goes between total water and filtered water add another line for DI water if you want to get CDOM



$a_{\text{tot}}$  = (particles + cdom)  
 $a_{\text{diss}}$  = just CDOM



# An example of calibration independent approach on an automated shipboard flow-through configuration



people add another switch to DI water  
and that will give you CDOM and particulate

.2 microns  
2 microns  
20 microns

size-fractionated absorption fraction  
underway

Slade et al., 2010

# Today in the lab

- CDOM absorption
- Divide into two groups of 10
  - Station 1 in Lecture Hall – lab spectrophotometry
  - Station 2 in Mitchell Lab – in situ spectrophotometry
- Will take about 2 hours for each station, then we will switch