# BIOLOGICAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT

# PART 2 - WASTEWATER CHARACTERIZATION

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# PHYSICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF WASTEWATER

- The constituents of wastewater comprise
  - Organic and inorganic,
  - Biodegradable and unbiodegradable,
  - Settleable, non-settleable and dissolved,
- ...compounds.
- We need to measure the COD, TKN and TP concentrations of each

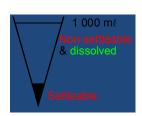
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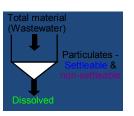
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#### SOME DEFINITIONS

- Settleable (particulate) can settle out in < 2h when not mixed (Settleability test)
- Non-settleable (particulate) –
  does not settle out in < 2h when
  not mixed.</li>
- Dissolved (soluble) passes through a 0.45 μm membrane filter (Filtration test).





ACTIVATED SLUDGE SYSTEM

Waste sludge

settling tank

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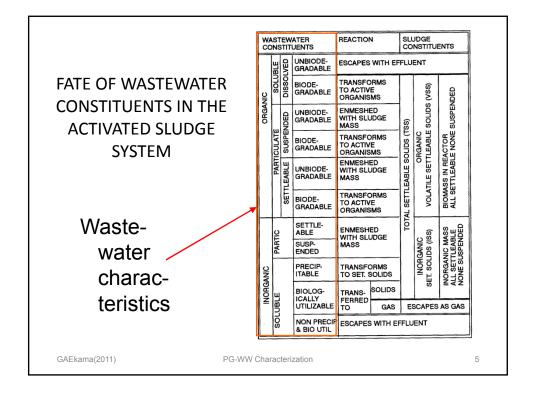
# PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ACTIVATED SLUDGE

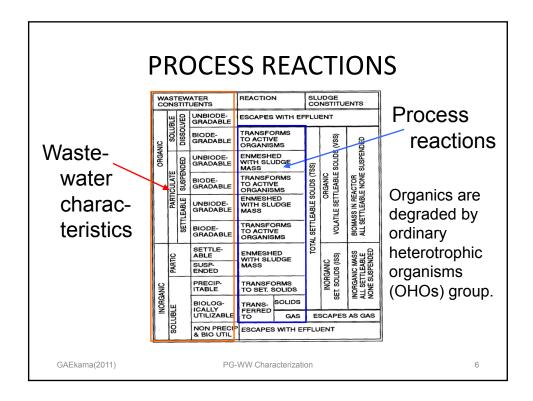
- The constituents of activated also comprise
  - Organic and inorganic,
  - Biodegradable and unbiodegradable,
  - Settleable, non-settleable and dissolved,
- ...compounds.
- BUT non-settleable content is negligibly small!

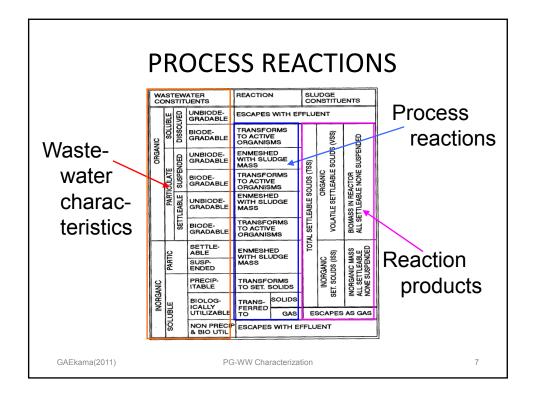
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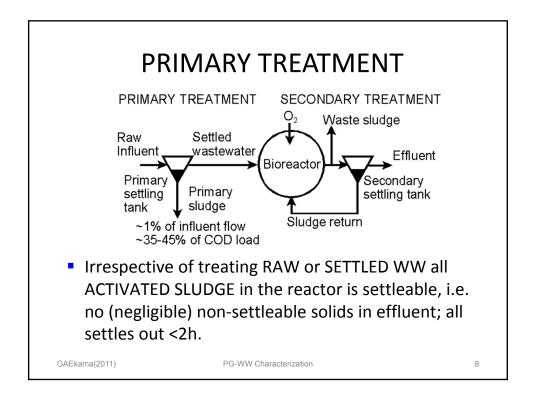
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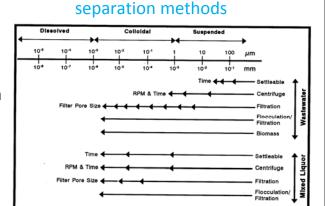




# PHYSICAL CHARACTER-IZATION TESTS

- Organic and inorganic material in wastewater characterized on basis of particle size
  - Dissolved
  - Settleable

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Effect of different solid-liquid

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**FILTRATION TEST** 

The COD, TKN, FSA, TP, OP, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (whatever else) of liquid passing through filter membrane (called filtrate) is measured.

 Depending on pore size, the filtraconcentrations give the dissolved concentrations.

 The difference between Total and dissolved concentrations gives the particulate concs.

Particulates non-settleable
Dissolved

Total material

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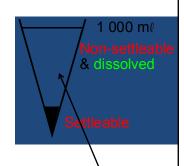
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#### SEDIMENTATION TEST

- Uses Imhoff cone (1%)
- Estimate volume of settled solids at bottom of cone after 2h, e.g. 15me/e settleable solids.
- Difference between supernatant concs and dissolved concs are the non-settleable concs.



 Has approx concentrations of settled WW

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# WASTEWATER SOLIDS TEST METHOD (1)

Total (settleable + non-settleable) solids using ASHLESS filter paper......

- (1) Dry filter paper at 105°C for ½h.
- (2) Weigh (Mass 1)
- (3) Filter 1 & raw WW through filter paper.
- (4) After most water has run through, place filter paper in crucible and dry at 105°C for >12h.

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# WASTEWATER SOLIDS TEST METHOD (2)

- (5) Cool in desiccator and weigh (Mass 2)
- Mass 2 Mass 1 (in mg) = TSS in mg/l
- (6) Weigh clean, dry crucible (Mass 3)
- (7) Place filter paper with solids in crucible and incinerate at 600°C for 20 min.
- (8) Cool in desiccator and weigh (Mass 4).
- Mass 4 Mass 3 (in mg) = ISS in mg/l
- VSS = TSS ISS (mgISS/I)

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# WASTEWATER SOLIDS TEST METHOD (3)

- The settleable solids of raw wastewater can be measured the same way except for step (3). In this step......
- (3a) Allow raw WW to settle for 1h in Imhoff cone,
- (3b) After carefully decanting supernatant from Imhoff cone, wash remaining liquid and settled solids into filter paper with distilled water.

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#### SETTLEABLE SOLIDS TESTS

- The settled solids volume (ml/l) read on the Imhoff Cone Test can be converted to concentration (mg/l) with settleable solids test result, e.g.
- 15 ml/l settled solids volume gave a concentration of 380 mgTSetS/l.
- From many tests, it has been found that 1 ml/l is approx equivalent ~25 mgTsetS/l.

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#### SETTLEABLE SOLIDS TESTS

- Settleable solids tests are done on raw WW to estimate mass of primary sludge that settles in primary settling tanks (PST).
- The non-settleable solids concentration can be determined in two ways....
  - (1) Measure TSS and VSS with method above, which gives Settleable + non-settleable.
  - (2) Applying TSS and VSS on supernatant of cone test, which gives non-settleable only.

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#### **WW PHYSICAL TESTS**

- The filtration and sedimentation tests can only distinguish between the physical characteristics of material in the WW – dissolved, non-settleable, settleable and organic and inorganic.
- These tests cannot distinguish between biodegradable and unbiodegradable organics

   this can only be done biologically in an activated sludge system (more later).

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# WASTEWATER PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Settleable COD = 750-450 = 300; %=300/750=40%
- Non-settleable = 450-199 = 251; %=251/750=33.5%
- Dissolved= 199; %=199/750=26.5%
- Plot % settleable, % nonsettleable and % dissolved in equilateral triangle.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERIZATION TA				
Parameter	COD	COD		
Units	mgCOD/I	%		
Raw WW	750			
Settled	450			
0.45 Filt	199			
Settleable	300			
Non-Set	251			
Dissolved	199			
RAW WW	Conc	%		
Settleable	300	40.0		
Non-Set	251	33.5		
Dissolved	199	26.5		
Particulate	551	73.5		
SETTLED		[		
Settleable	0	0.0		
Non-Set	251	55.8		
Dissolved	199	44.2		
Particulate	251	55.8		
Prim Sludge	300	40.0		

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# WASTEWATER PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Plot % settleable, %
  non-settleable and %
  dissolved in
  equilateral triangle
- e.g. for dissolved, if 100%=10cm,then 26.5%=2.65cm up from base (0%) to apex (100%).

Raw
Settled
NONSETTLEABLE
SETTLEABLE

NONSETTLEABLE

SETTLEABLE

NONSETTLEABLE

SETTLEABLE

SETTLEABLE

SETTLEABLE

SETTLEABLE

**RAW and SETTLED WASTEWATER** 

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# WASTEWATER PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS Do same for settleable: So Turn triangle to make settleable base, then... 100%=10cm,so

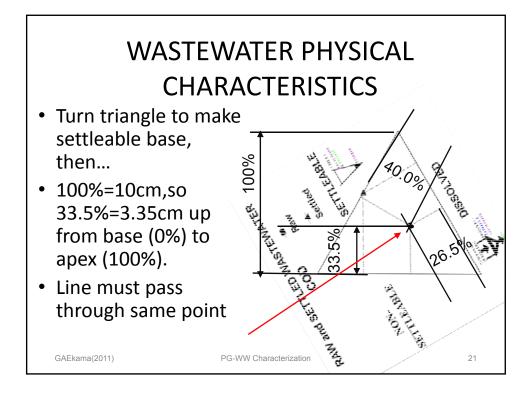
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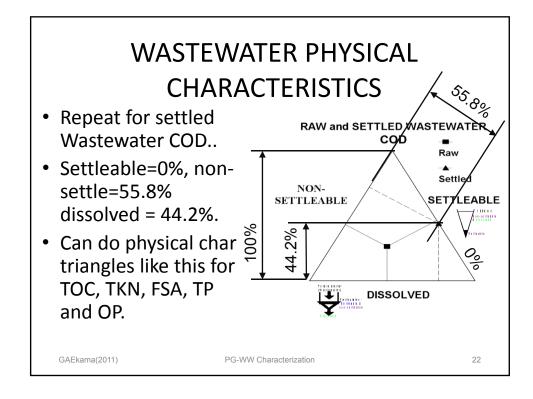
(100%).

40%=4.0cm up from base (0%) to apex

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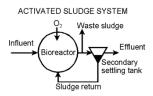
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#### SOLIDS TESTS ON REACTOR

 Solids tests on activated sludge (AS) reactor contents give quantitative measure of solids in reactor - TSS (Total), VSS (organic) and ISS (inorganic).



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#### TSS - VSS TEST METHOD

- (1) Take measured volume of AS (100ml)
- (2) Centrifuge sample at >3000 rpm for 20 min.



- (3) Carefully decant off supernatant (keep for other tests such as FSA, nitrate, etc.)
- (4) Wash solids to clean dry crucible with distilled water. Mass of Crucible = Mass 1, say 28.1378g.

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#### TSS - VSS TEST METHOD

- Drying in oven at 105°C for >12h.
- Place in desiccator to cool and weigh, Mass 2
   = mass of crucible + dried solids. Say
   28.6531g
- Incinerate at 600°C for 20 min.
- Place in desiccator to cool and weigh, Mass 3
   = mass of crucible + non-combustible
   (inorganic) solids. Say 28.2668g

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#### TSS – VSS CALCULATION

```
TSS = (MRSS 2 - MRSS 1) g. 1000 mg. 1000 ml

= (28,C531 - 28,1378).106/100 = 5153 mg TSS/R

VSS = (MRSS 2 - MRSS 3) g. 1000 mg. 1000 ml

= (28,C531 - 28,2C8).106/100 = 38C3 mg VSS/R

TSD = (MRSS 3 - MRSS 1) g. 1000 mg. 1000 ml

= (28,C531 - 28,2C8).106/100 = 38C3 mg VSS/R

SAMPLE VOLUME ML

= (28,2C8 3 - MRSS 1) g. 1000 mg. 1000 ml

= (28,2C8 - 28,1378).106/100 = 1290 mg ISS/R

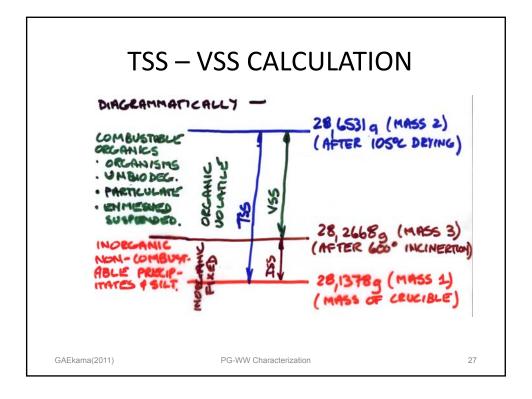
OR = TSS - VSB = 5153 - 38C3 = 1290 mg ISS/R

(OR ORCHANCE) = 38C3 100 = 75% YSS

(OR ORCHANCE) = 5153 - 100 = 75% YSS
```

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## COD/VSS RATIO OF AS (1)

- The VSS (organics) in AS reactor comprises 3 types of organics
  - (1) live organisms ( $X_{BH}$ )
  - (2) unbiodegradable endogenous residue generated by death of organisms ( $X_{EH}$ )
  - (3) unbiodegradable particulate organics from influent wastewater  $(X_i)$ .
- If we accept that the composition of these organics is the same and approximated by C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N, then.....

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## COD/VSS RATIO OF AS (2)

```
Can calculate theoretical Cop/uss(f_{cv})

C_5H_7O_2N + 8H_2O \longrightarrow 5CO_2 + NH_3 + 20e^2 + 20H^4

20H^4 + 20e^2 + 5O_2 \longrightarrow 10 H_2O

C_5H_7O_2N + 5O_2 \longrightarrow 5CO_2 + 2H_2O + NH_3

5.12 + 7 + 2.16 + 14

5.2.16 = 160g \text{ oxygen}
```

- So COD/VSS ratio  $(f_{cv}) = 160/113 = 1.42 \text{ gCOD/gVSS}$
- Experimentally we measure 1.48 gCOD/gVSS

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### COD/VSS RATIO OF AS (3)

From the AS steady state model, we know that the proportions of (1) live organisms, (2) endogenous residue and (3) unbiodegradable particulate organics from the influent in the VSS change depending on how reactor is operated (i.e. high or low sludge wastage flow rate – more later), yet the COD/VSS ratio does not change much – it remains at around 1.48.

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## COD/VSS RATIO OF AS (3)

- We conclude for this that the composition, i.e. the x, y, z and a values in C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>O<sub>z</sub>N<sub>a</sub> of the 3 different constituents of AS VSS are approximately similar, despite their obvious differences (live organisms, unbiodegradable).
- So we can calculate the VSS for the influent unbiodegradable particulate organics from its COD value and vice versa.

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#### VSS & COD TESTS on AS

- The VSS and COD tests on the AS solids cannot distinguish between biodegradable (live) and unbiodegradable organics.
- The physical separation tests ...
  - (1) filtration can only distinguish between dissolved and particulate organics, and
  - (2) sedimentation can only distinguish between settleable and non-settleable organics.

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#### VSS & COD TESTS on AS

- The VSS and COD tests on the AS solids cannot distinguish between biodegradable (live) and unbiodegradable organics.
- Physical separation (filtration) can only distinguish between dissolved and particulate organics.

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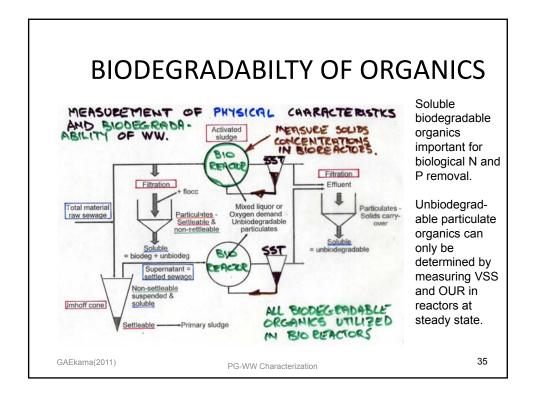
#### **BIODEGRADABLE ORGANICS in WW**

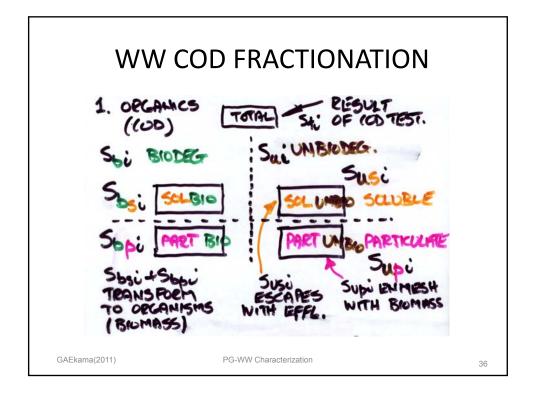
- The only way the dissolved and particulate organics can be separated into their biodegradable and unbiodegradable parts is by treating the WW in an AS system and measuring.....
  - (1) COD concentration in effluent = unbiodegradable soluble,  $S_{use} = S_{usi}$ , and
  - (2) VSS concentration and oxygen utilization rate in reactor – the higher the VSS and lower the OUR, the higher the unbio. COD

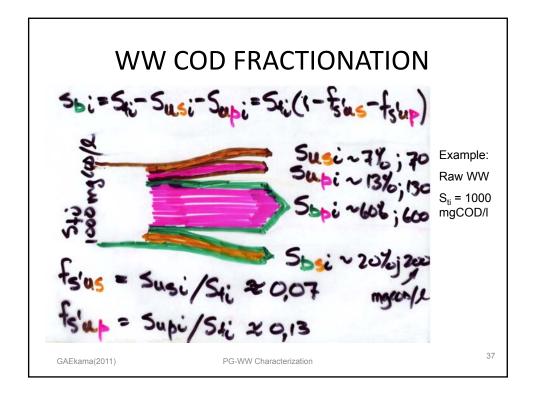
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#### WW COD FRACTIONATION

- $f_{S'us}$  = Influent unbiodegradable soluble COD fraction =  $S_{usi}/S_{ti}$
- f<sub>S'up</sub> = Influent unbiodegradable particulate
   COD fraction = S<sub>upi</sub>/S<sub>ti</sub>
- X<sub>Ii</sub> is unbiodegradable particulate organics conc in terms of VSS, i.e.
- $X_{Ii} = S_{upi}/f_{cv} = f_{S'up} S_{ti}/f_{cv} mgVSS/I$

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#### **UNBIO. COD FRACTIONS**

Parameter	Raw WW	Settled WW
Unbiodegradable Soluble (f <sub>S'us</sub> )	0.04 - 0.08	0.08 - 0.12
Unbiodegradable Particulate (f <sub>S'up</sub> )	0.10 - 0.15	0.00 - 0.06
VSS/TSS ratio of Reactor Solids (f <sub>i</sub> )*	0.75 - 0.83	0.80 - 0.90

- \*The VSS/TSS ratio varies depending on the influent inorganic suspended solids (ISS) concentration (X<sub>IOi</sub>)...
  - If high (20-30mgISS/I), then f<sub>i</sub> is low
  - If low (5-10mgISS/I), then f<sub>i</sub> is high

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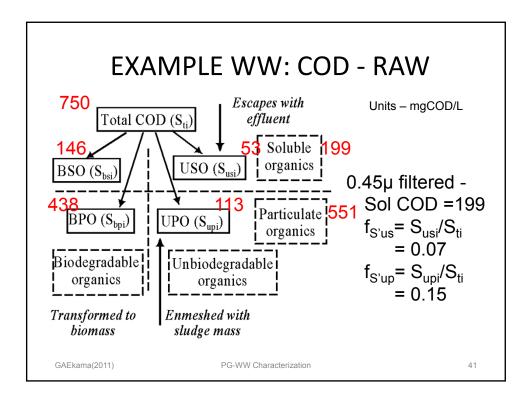
#### **BIODEG. COD FRACTIONS**

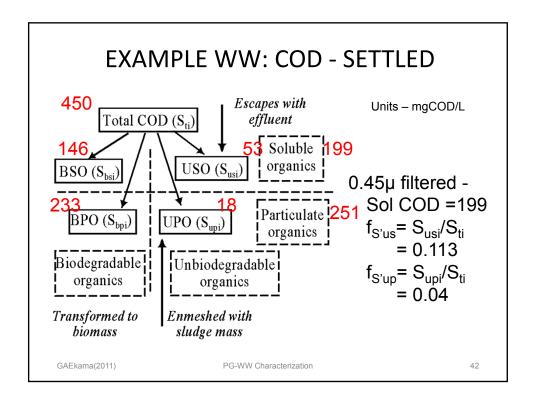
- $S_{bi} = S_{ti} S_{usi} S_{upi} = S_{ti} (1 f_{S'us} f_{S'up}).$
- $S_{bi} = S_{bsi} + S_{bpi}$  and
- $S_{bsi} = f_{Sb's} S_{bi}$  and  $S_{bpi} = (1-f_{Sb's}) S_{bi}$ 
  - Where  $f_{Sb's}$  = fraction of influent biodegradable COD that is bio. soluble.
- Also,  $S_{bsi} = f_{S'bs} S_{ti}$ 
  - Where  $f_{S'bs}$  = fraction of influent total COD that is biodegradable soluble.

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#### INFLUENT NITROGEN

- Influent N compounds (reduced) comprise Free (NH<sub>3</sub>) and Saline (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) Ammonia (FSA) and Organic Nitrogen (OrgN), which is N bound in organics proteins.
- Two tests measure these
  - FSA test measures ammonia
  - TKN test measures FSA + OrgN

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## REDUCED N TEST METHODS – TKN & FSA

• (1) Acid digest sample. This breaks down all organics and releases N in proteins as ammonia.

For TKN Test all 4 steps

• (2) Raise pH > 10 and do FSA test.

For FSA Test - Steps 2-4

• (3) TKN =  $14x1000xN_{acid} \times V_{titrate} / V_{sample}$ 

only

(4) TKN = 14000x0.001x24.3ml/10ml = 34.0 mgTKN-N/I.

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# OXIDIZED N (NO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>)

- Oxidized N, like NO<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>, are NOT measured in FSA and TKN tests.
- WW usually have zero influent NO<sub>3</sub> due to denitrification in sewer (N<sub>ni</sub> = 0).

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## ORGANIC N (OrgN)

- Organic N (N<sub>oi</sub>) = TKN (N<sub>ti</sub>) FSA (N<sub>ai</sub>)
- $N_{oi} = N_{ti} N_{ai}$  mgOrgN-N/I.
- Because organic N is N bound in organics, it has soluble, particulate, biodegradable and unbiodegradable constituents.
- So OrgN fractionates exactly like COD.
- In fact, the OrgN is the N content of the same organics measured as COD.

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## S<sub>upi</sub>, X<sub>Ii</sub>, N<sub>oupi</sub> & P<sub>oupi</sub> LINKS

- Say UPO can be represented by C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>0.8</sub>P<sub>0.09</sub>
- Then COD is:  $C_5H_7O_2N_{0.8}P_{0.09} + 8.36H_2O = 5CO_2 + 0.8NH_3 + 0.09H_3PO_4 + 21.15(e^- + H^+)$
- In general EDC = γ<sub>s</sub> = 4x+y-2z-3a+5b e<sup>-</sup>/mol if composition is C<sub>x</sub>H<sub>y</sub>O<sub>z</sub>N<sub>a</sub>P<sub>b</sub>
- So COD= $32/4\gamma_s=8x21.15=169.2gCOD/mol.$
- VSS=60+7+32+0.8x14+0.09x31=113g/mol
- So f<sub>cv</sub>= 169.2/113=1.497 gCOD/gVSS

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## S<sub>upi</sub>, X<sub>Ii</sub>, N<sub>oupi</sub> & P<sub>oupi</sub> LINKS

- The N/VSS mass ratio (fn) is found from the N content of the organics (UPO)....
- $f_n (gN/gVSS)=0.8x14/113=0.099$  or
- N/COD= 0.8x14/169.2=0.066gN/gCOD

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#### COMPOSITION OF ORGANIC TYPES (1)

- The same principle applies also to the BPO and other organic types (USO, BSO)
- But composition of each type is different.
- Can be represented by  $C_X H_Y O_Z N_A P_B$  or  $C_{fc/12} H_{fh/1} O_{fo/16} N_{fn/14} P_{fp/31}$  where X=f<sub>c</sub>/12, etc.
- And f<sub>c</sub>, f<sub>h</sub>, f<sub>o</sub>, f<sub>n</sub> and f<sub>p</sub> are the mass ratios gC/g, gH/g, gO/g, gN/g and gP/g and determined by measurement.

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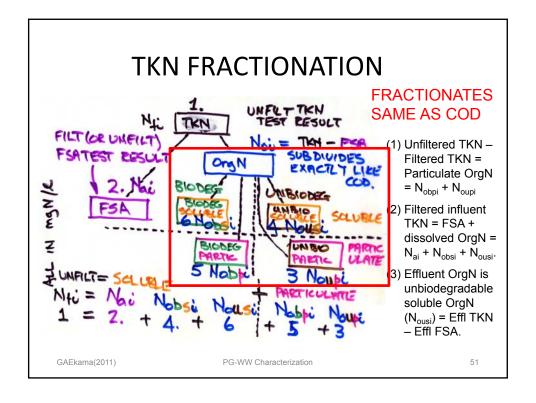
#### **COMPOSITION OF ORGANIC TYPES**

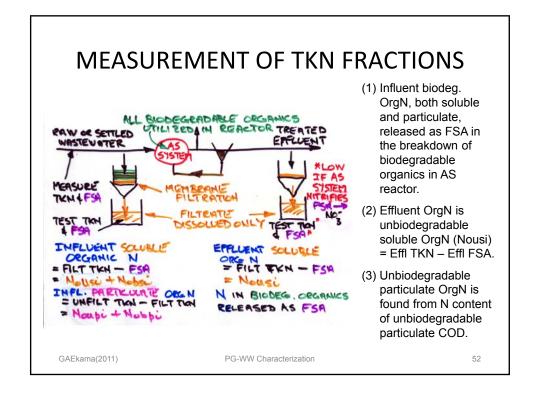
• The important thing to understand is that COD, TOC, OrgN, OrgP are characteristics of the same organic compounds grouped into measurable types (BPO, UPO, BSO and USO) and  $f_{cv}$ ,  $f_c$ ,  $f_n$  and  $f_p$  are the measured mass ratios of these groups .

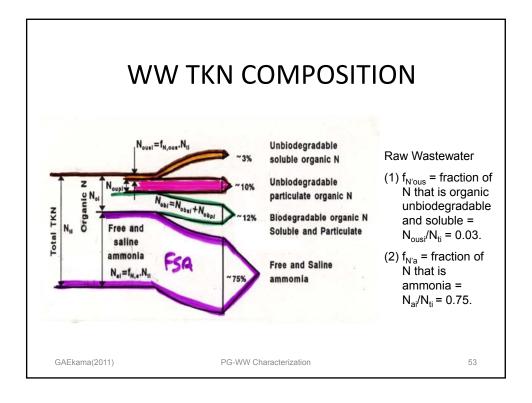
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#### TKN FRACTIONATION

- $N_{ai} = f_{N'a} N_{ti}$  (or FSA directly measured)
- $N_{oi} = N_{ti} N_{ai}$  (OrgN = TKN FSA)
- $N_{ousi} = f_{N'ous} N_{ti}$  (or Filt Effl OrgN=Effl TKN-FSA)
- $N_{oupi} = f_n X_{li} = f_n f_{S'up} S_{ti} / f_{cv}$
- ...is N content of UPO!)
- $N_{obi} = N_{oi} N_{ousi} N_{oupi}$
- N<sub>obsi</sub> = FiltTKN-N<sub>ai</sub>-N<sub>ousi</sub>
- = Filt OrgN-N<sub>ousi</sub>
- $N_{obpi} = N_{obi} N_{obsi}$

**WW TKN Fractions** 

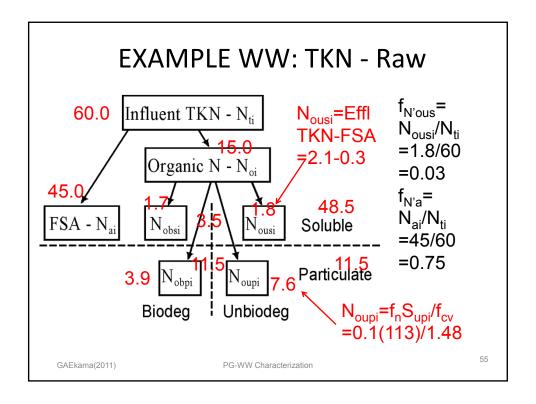
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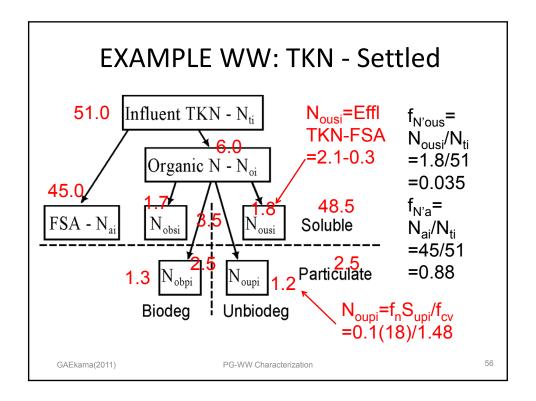
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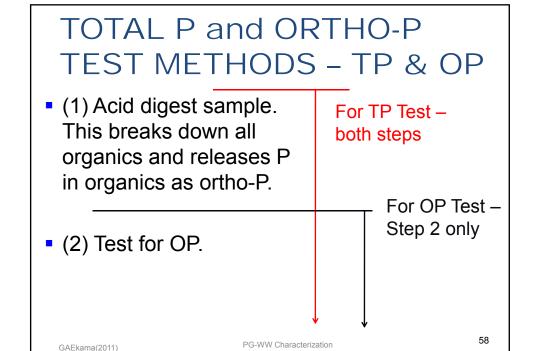
#### INFLUENT PHOSPHORUS

- Influent P compounds comprise Orthophosphate (OP or inorganic P = H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> + HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> +PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>) and Organic P (OrgP), which is P bound in organics.
- Two tests measure these
  - OP test measures ortho-phosphate
  - TP test measures OP and OrgP

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## ORGANIC P (OrgP)

- Organic P  $(P_{oi})$  = TP  $(P_{ti})$  OP  $(P_{si})$
- $P_{oi} = P_{fi} P_{si}$  mgOrgP-P/I.
- Because organic P is P bound in organics, it has soluble, particulate, biodegradable and unbiodegradable constituents.
- So OrgP fractionates exactly like COD.
- In fact, the OrgP is the P content of the same organics measured as COD.

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## ORGANIC P (OrgP)

- Organic P (P<sub>oi</sub>) fractionates exactly the same as OrgN and uses same subscripts.
  - P<sub>ousi</sub> unbiodegradable soluble (usually zero)
  - P<sub>oupi</sub> unbiodegradable particulate OrgP (determined from P content of UPO)
  - P<sub>obsi</sub> biodegradable soluble OrgP
  - P<sub>obpi</sub> biodegradable particulate OrgP
- Biodegradable OrgP is released as OP in reactor when biodegradable organics are broken down and add to influent OP.

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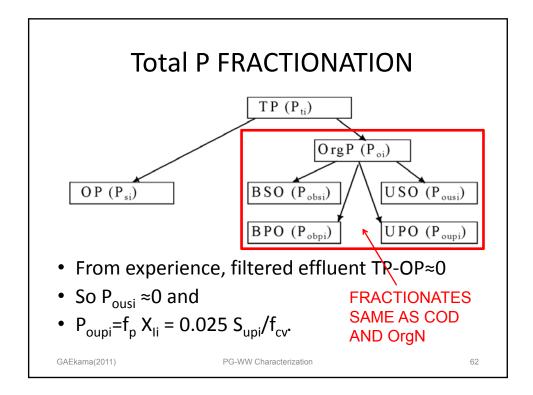
# $S_{upi}$ , $X_{li}$ , $N_{oupi}$ & $P_{oupi}$ LINKS

- As before, say UPO can be represented by C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>0.8</sub>P<sub>0.09</sub>
- Then similarly, P content of UPO is......
- $f_p (gP/gVSS)=0.09x31/113=0.0247$  or
- P/COD= 0.09x31/169.2=0.0165gP/gCOD.

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## S<sub>upi</sub>, X<sub>li</sub>, N<sub>oupi</sub> & P<sub>oupi</sub> LINKS

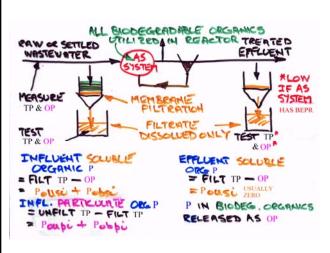
- So if total WW COD is 1000 mgCOD/l and  $f_{s'up}$ =0.15, then for this composition...
- UPO COD is 0.15x1000=150 mgCOD/l,
- UPO VSS (X<sub>Ii</sub>) is 150/1.497=100mgVSS/I
- $N_{oupi} = f_n X_{li} = 0.099 \times 100 = 9.9 \text{ mgOrgN/l}$
- Or  $N_{oupi} = 0.066xS_{upi} = 9.9 \text{ mgOrgN/I}.$
- $P_{oupi} = f_p X_{li} = 0.0247x100 = 2.47 \text{ mgOrgP/l}$
- Or  $P_{oupi} = 0.0165xS_{upi} = 2.47 \text{ mgOrgP/I}.$

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#### MEASUREMENT OF TP FRACTIONS



- (1) Influent biodeg. OrgP, both soluble and particulate, released as OP in the breakdown of biodegradable organics in AS reactor.
- (2) Effluent OrgP is unbiodegradable soluble OrgP (P<sub>ousi</sub>) = Effl TP – Effl OP (≈0).
- (3) Unbiodegradable particulate OrgP (P<sub>oupi</sub>) is found from P content of UPO.

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#### TP FRACTIONATION

- $P_{si} = f_{p's} P_{ti}$  (or OP directly measured)
- $P_{Oi} = P_{ti} P_{Si}$  (OrgP = TP OP)
- $P_{ous} = f_{P'ous} P_{ti}$  (or Filt Effl OrgP=Effl TP-OP,  $\approx 0$ )
- $P_{oupi} = f_p X_{li} = f_p f_{S'up} S_{ti} / f_{cv}$
- ...is P content of UPO!)
- $P_{obi} = P_{oi} P_{ousi} P_{oupi}$
- $P_{obsi} = FiltTP P_{si} P_{ousi}$
- = Filt OrgP-P<sub>ousi</sub>
- $P_{obpi} = P_{obi} P_{obsi}$

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 WW TP Fractions

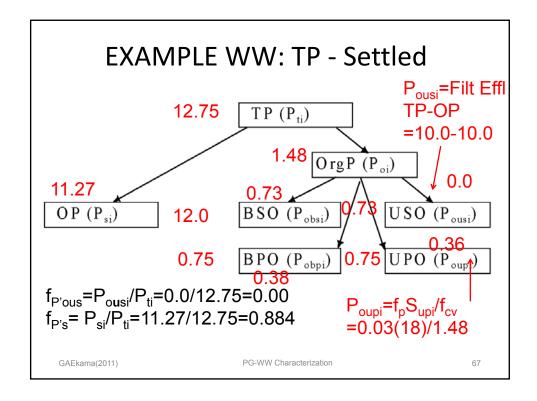
 Raw
 Settled

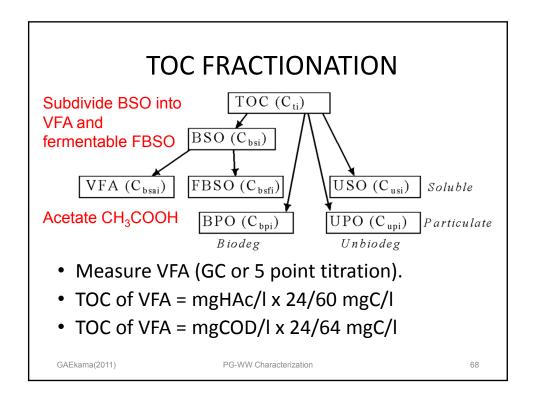
 f<sub>P's</sub>
 0.8 - 0.85 - 0.90

 0.9
 0.90

 f<sub>P'ous</sub>
 0.00 - 0.00 - 0.00 - 0.02

**EXAMPLE WW: TP - Raw** P<sub>ousi</sub>=Filt Effl TP-OP  $\overline{TP}$   $(P_{ti})$ 15.0 =10.0-10.0  $3.73 \overline{OrgP(P_{oi})}$ 11.27 0.73 USO (Pousi)  $OP(P_{si})$ BSO (Pobsi) 12.0  $\overline{BPO}$   $(P_{obpi})$ 3.00  $f_{P'ous} = P_{ousi}/P_{ti} = 0.0/15 = 0.00$  $f_{P's} = P_{si}/P_{ti} = 11.27/15 = 0.75$ =0.03(113)/1.48 PG-WW Characterization GAEkama(2011)





#### TOC FRACTIONATION

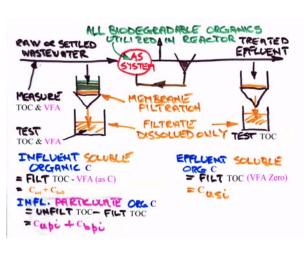
- TOC (C<sub>ti</sub>) fractionates like COD and uses same subscripts.
  - C<sub>usi</sub> = TOC of filtered AS system effluent.
  - So  $f_{C'uso} = C_{usi} / (S_{usi} / f_{cv'uso}) (f_{cv'uso} \sim 1.42)$
  - C<sub>bsfi</sub> fermentable biodeg soluble OrgC (TOC)
  - $= C_{ti} (Filt TOC) C_{bsai} C_{usi}$
  - C<sub>pi</sub> (Partic TOC)= C<sub>ti</sub> (Unfilt TOC) C<sub>si</sub> (Filt TOC)
  - $C_{upi} = f_{C'upo} X_{li} \text{ or } = f_{C'upo} (S_{upi} / f_{cv'upo}) (f_{cv'upo} \sim 1.48)$
  - C<sub>bpi</sub> biodegradable particulate OrgC (TOC).

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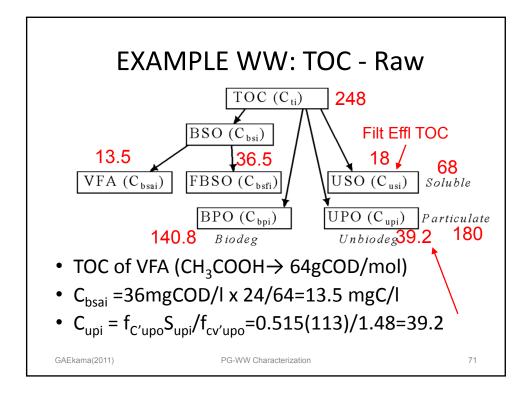


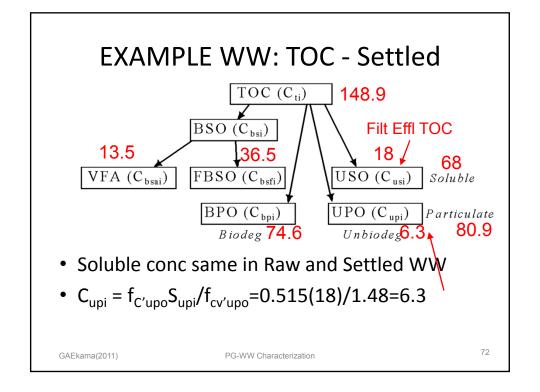


- (1)Effluent TOC is unbiodegradable soluble OrgC (C<sub>usi</sub>) = Effl TOC (Effl VFA=0).
- (2)Unbiodegradable particulate OrgC (C<sub>upi</sub>) is found from C content of unbiodegradable particulate organics.

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#### **SUMMARY**

- Influent WW organics need to be characterized into biodegradable and unbiodegradable and soluble and particulate organics because these behave differently in the AS reactor...
  - Unbiodegradable soluble exit with effluent.
  - Unbiodegradable particulate accumulate with solids in reactor and exit via waste sludge.
  - Biodegradable organics are broken down to form new biomass for which O<sub>2</sub> is required.

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ACTIVATED SLUDGE SYSTEM