

Measurement and interpretation of chlorophyll fluorescence: a most dangerous game

John J. Cullen

with contributions from

Audrey B. Barnett

Adam Comeau

Susanne E. Craig

Richard F. Davis

Yannick Huot†

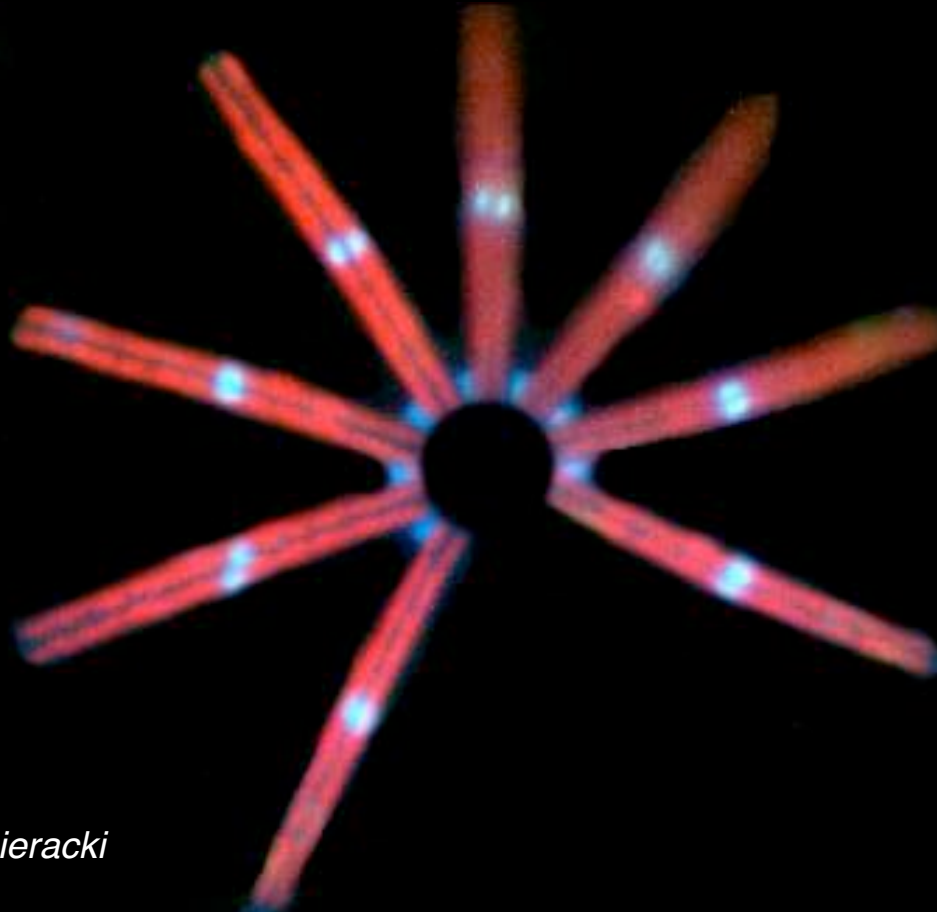
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Mike Sieracki

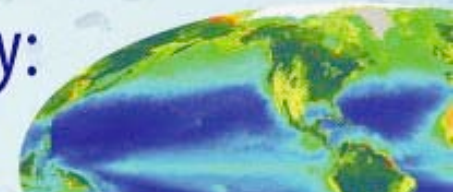
2008 HAWAII SUMMER COURSE ON MICROBIAL OCEANOGRAPHY

**AGOURON
INSTITUTE**



**Microbial Oceanography:
Genomes to Biomes**

A laboratory field training course at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



Chlorophyll Fluorescence Simplified

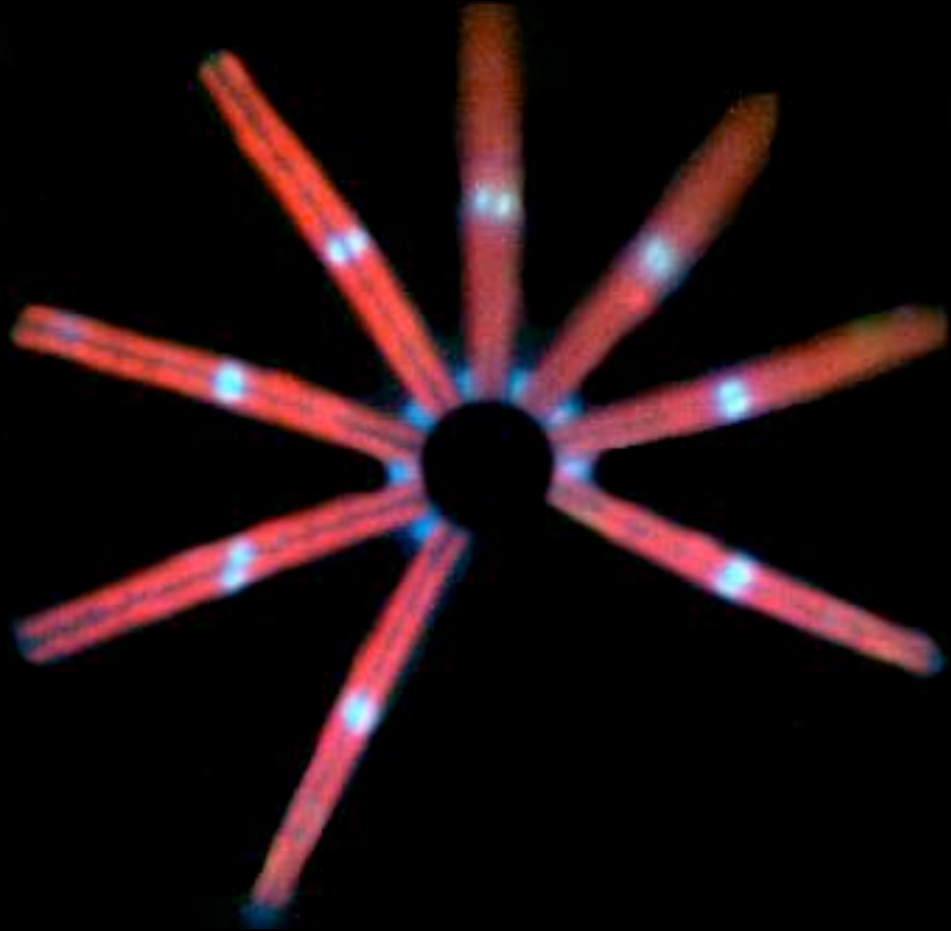
Equation	Equation number
$\frac{dA}{dt} = -\overset{\circ}{E} \sigma'_{PSII} A + \frac{BNADP}{\tau}$	3.41
$\frac{dB}{dt} = \overset{\circ}{E} \sigma'_{PSII} A - \frac{BNADP}{\tau} + K_{rep} C - \Psi_d \sigma'_{PSII} \overset{\circ}{E} B$	3.42
$\frac{dC}{dt} = -K_{rep} C + \Psi_d \sigma'_{PSII} \overset{\circ}{E} B$	3.43
$\frac{dk_{qE}}{dt} = \begin{cases} k_{ind} (k_{qE}^{st} - k_{qE}) & k_{qE}^{st} > k_{qE} \\ k_{rel} (k_{qE}^{st} - k_{qE}) & k_{qE}^{st} < k_{qE} \end{cases}$	☐ 3.28 and 3.29
$\frac{dNADP}{dt} = -\frac{B}{\tau} NADP + K_{Calvin} + k_{sinks}$	3.8
$k_{qE}^{st} = \gamma_d \overset{\circ}{E} \left(1 - \left[A + C \frac{(n_{Calvin} k_{Calvin}^{max} - P_e^{RC})}{n_{Calvin} k_{Calvin}^{max}} \right] \right)$ and $\gamma_d = \gamma_o + \gamma_{NPQ}$	3.27
$\sigma'_{PSII} = \sigma_{PSII}^O \varphi_{pA} = \sigma_{PSII}^O \frac{k_p}{k_d + k_f + k_p + k_{qE}}$	3.32
$K_{Calvin} = n_{Calvin} \frac{k_{Calvin}^{max} NADPH}{NADPH_{1/2} + NADPH}$	3.9
$K_{rep}^N = \frac{k_{rep}^{max} C}{C_{1/2} + C} N_{status}$	☐ 3.33 and 3.34
$P_e^{RC} = A \varphi_{pA} \sigma_{PSII}^O \overset{\circ}{E} = A \sigma'_{PSII} \overset{\circ}{E}$	3.36
$\varphi_f = A \frac{k_f}{k_d + k_f + k_p + k_{qE}} + B \frac{k_f}{k_d + k_f + k_{qE}} + C \frac{k_f}{k_d + k_f + k_l + k_{qE}}$	3.12
Acclimation	☐
$\frac{d\sigma_{PSII}^O}{dt} = \begin{cases} \kappa_{\sigma PSII} \sigma_{PSII}^O \left(\frac{A}{A+B} (\sigma_{PSII}^O / \sigma_{PSII}^{opt})^x - 0.3 \right) & \overset{\circ}{E} > 0 \\ 0 & \overset{\circ}{E} = 0 \end{cases}$	☐ 3.44

only kidding...

A Biological Property

Sensitive to

- Physiology
- Acclimation
- Adaptation



*Mike
Sieracki*

An Oceanographic Tool

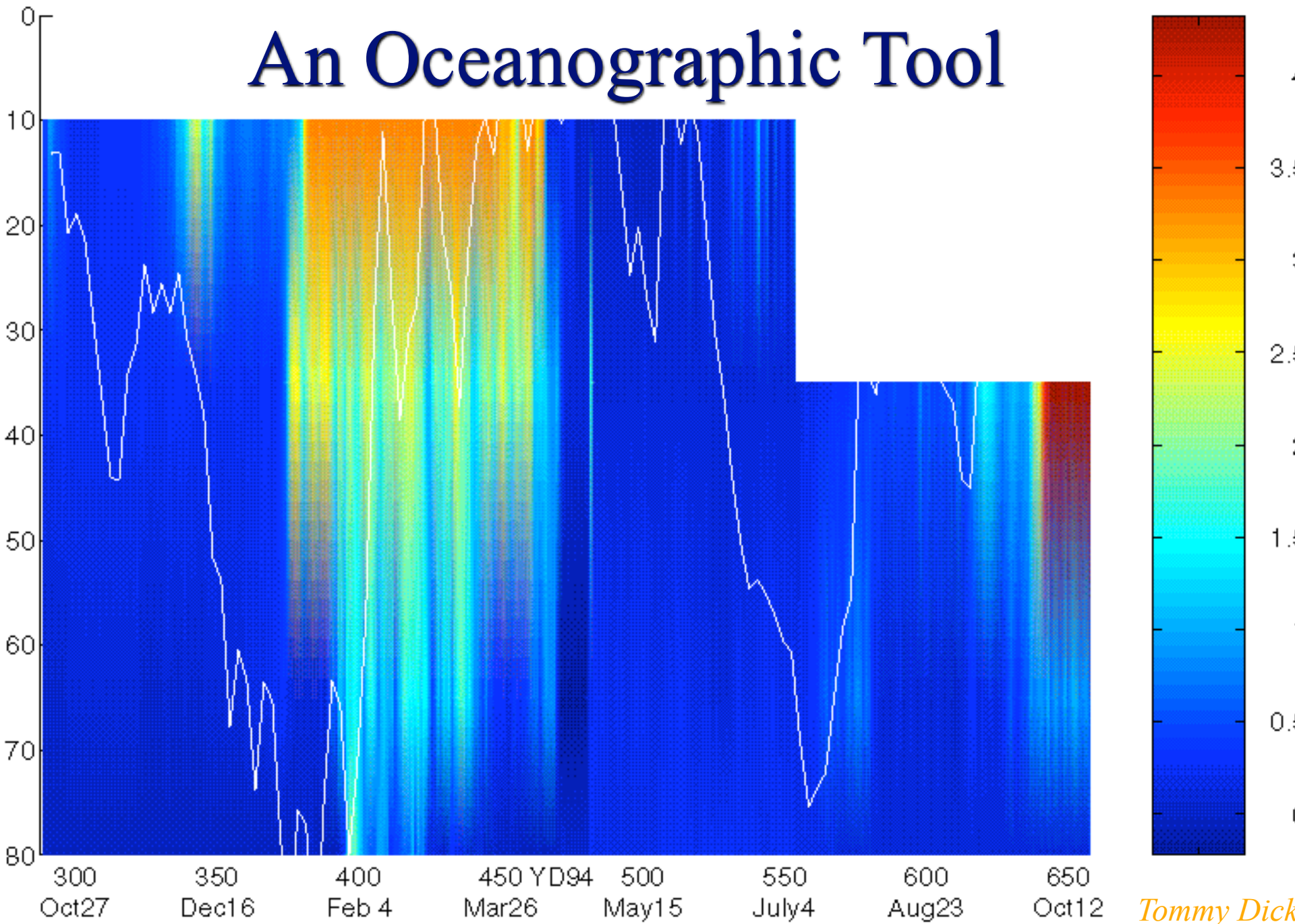
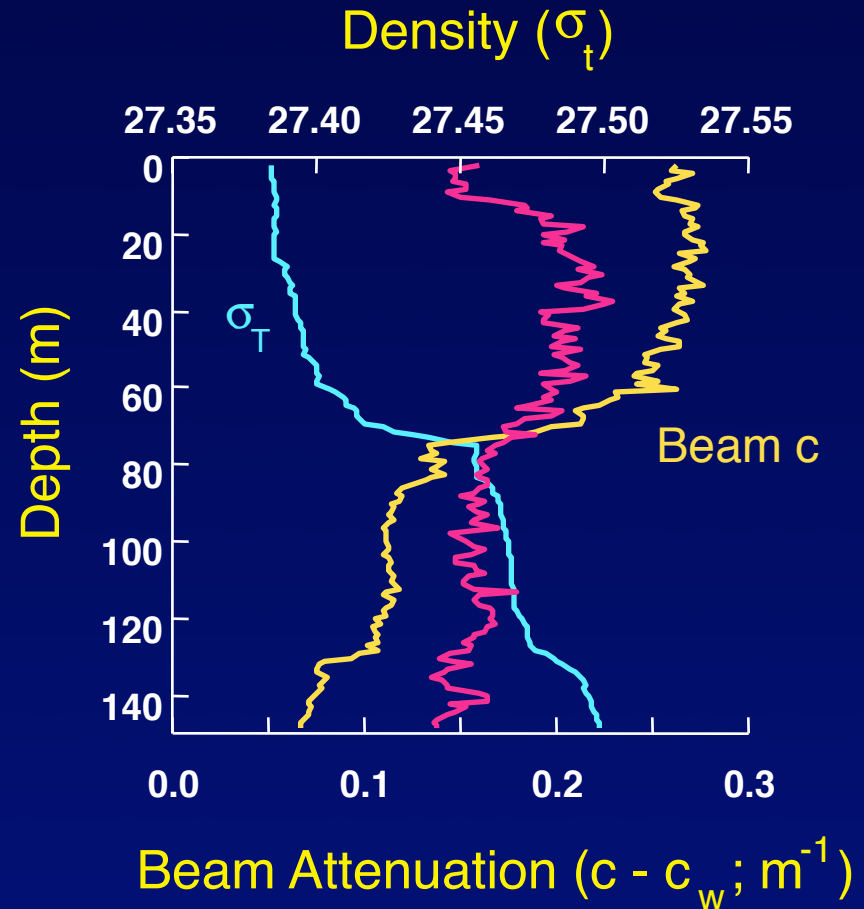


Figure 4.13 Chlorophyll a measured using stimulated fluorometers at 10,35,65,and 80m at the central mooring

Fluorescence is measured to detect and quantify phytoplankton

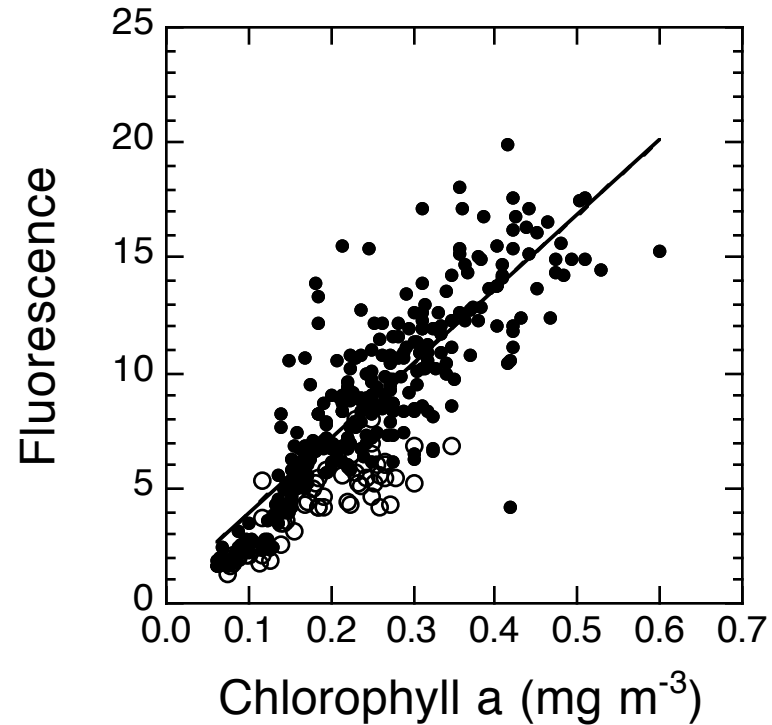
Bozone 1993: Wedell-Scotia Sea

Vertical Profiles



Fluorescence (Relative)

Specifically,
fluorescence is
measured to
estimate
chlorophyll

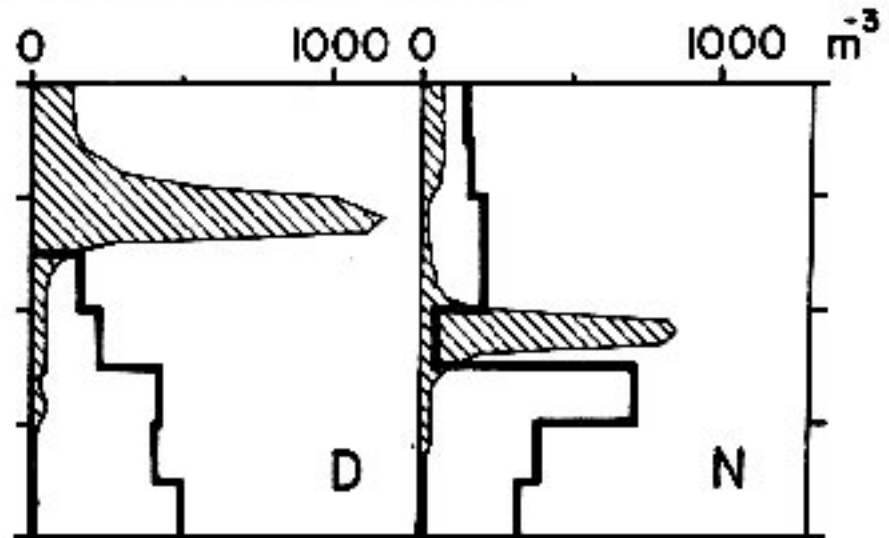


All phytoplankton have chlorophyll a^*

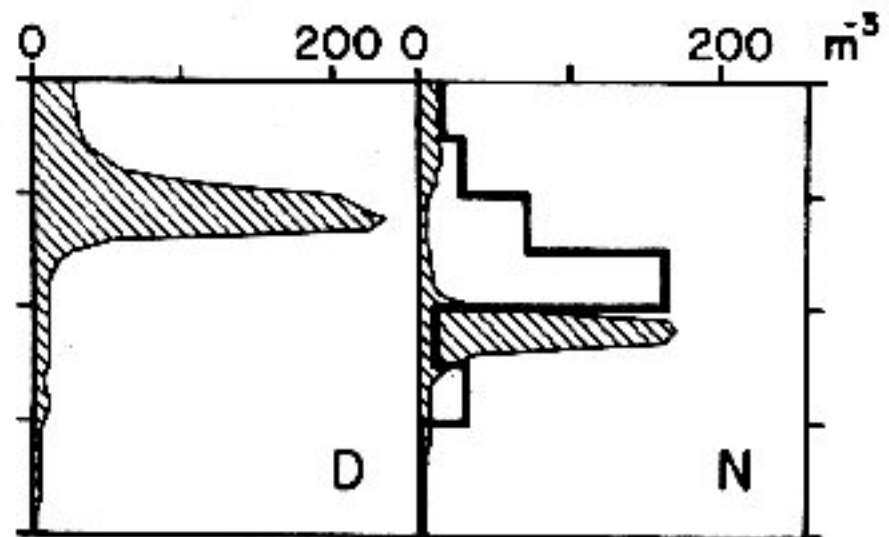
...and
chlorophyll is
used as a
measure of
biomass

Fiedler PC (1982) Zooplankton avoidance and reduced grazing responses to *Gymnodinium splendens* (Dinophyceae). Limnology and Oceanography 27:961-965

D) *Ctenocalanus vanus*



F) *Calanus pacificus* ♀♀



However, the relationship between fluorescence and chlorophyll is variable

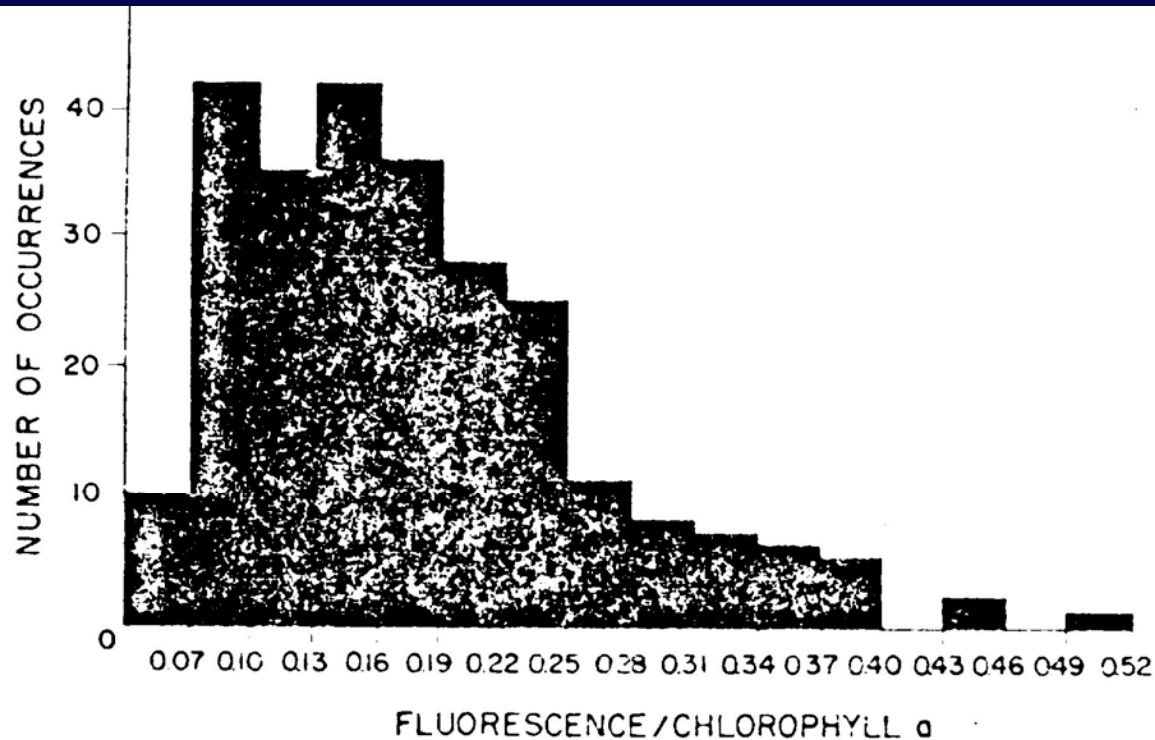


Fig. 1. Frequency polygon for all 250 measurements of fluorescence number made in coastal waters, Lake Tahoe, and Central North Pacific Gyre

As is the relationship between chlorophyll and biomass

Bannister TT, Laws EA (1980) Modeling phytoplankton carbon metabolism. In: Falkowski PG (ed) Primary Productivity in the Sea. Plenum, New York, p 243-248

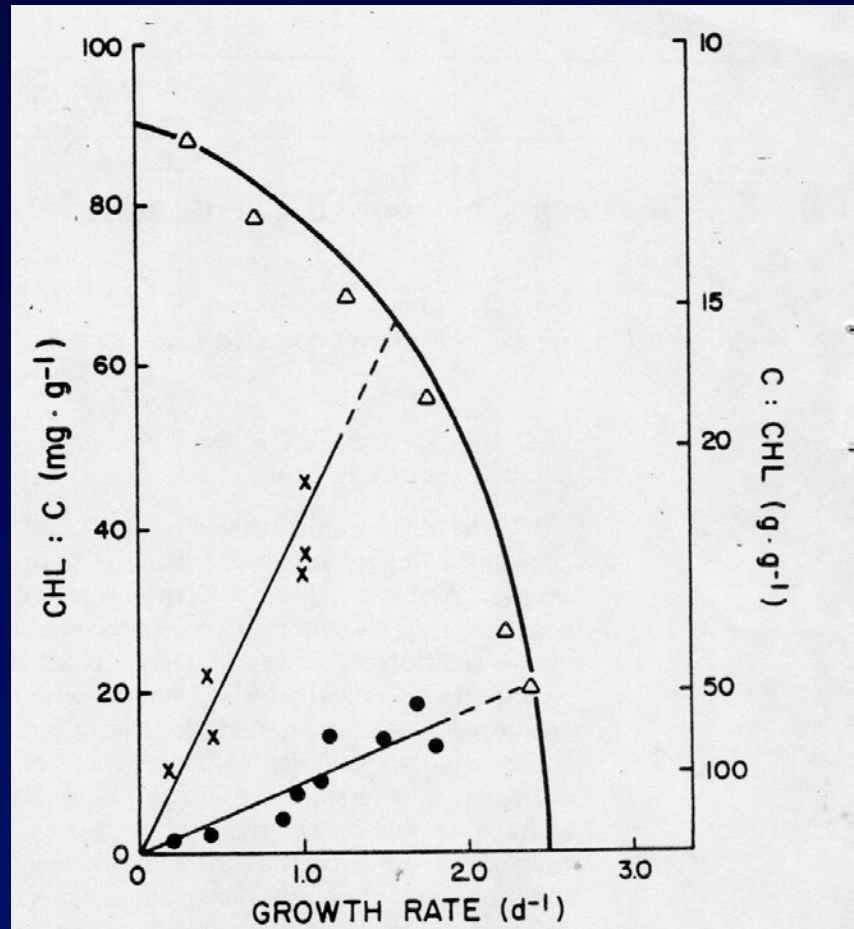


FIG. 1. The relationship between chlorophyll-to-carbon ratio (not C:Chl) and growth rate. Triangles, nutrient-saturated (light-limited) growth of *Chlorella pyrenoidosa* (Myers and Graham 1971); \times , nutrient-limited growth of *Thalassiosira pseudonana* at $0.07 \text{ cal} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ and 12-h photoperiod (Eppley and Renger 1972; Perry 1976); circles, nitrate-limited growth of *T. pseudonana* at $0.1 \text{ cal} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ continuous light (Caperon and Meyer 1972). In both light regimes, $\text{Chl} : \text{C}$ is a linear function of nutrient-limited growth rate within the limits of precision, but at the lower irradiance the slope is steeper. The curve was calculated from a model presented by Bannister and Laws (1980), the source of this figure. $\text{C} : \text{Chl}$ conversions are added for convenience.

Variability of fluorescence can be related to environmental conditions, species and physiological condition

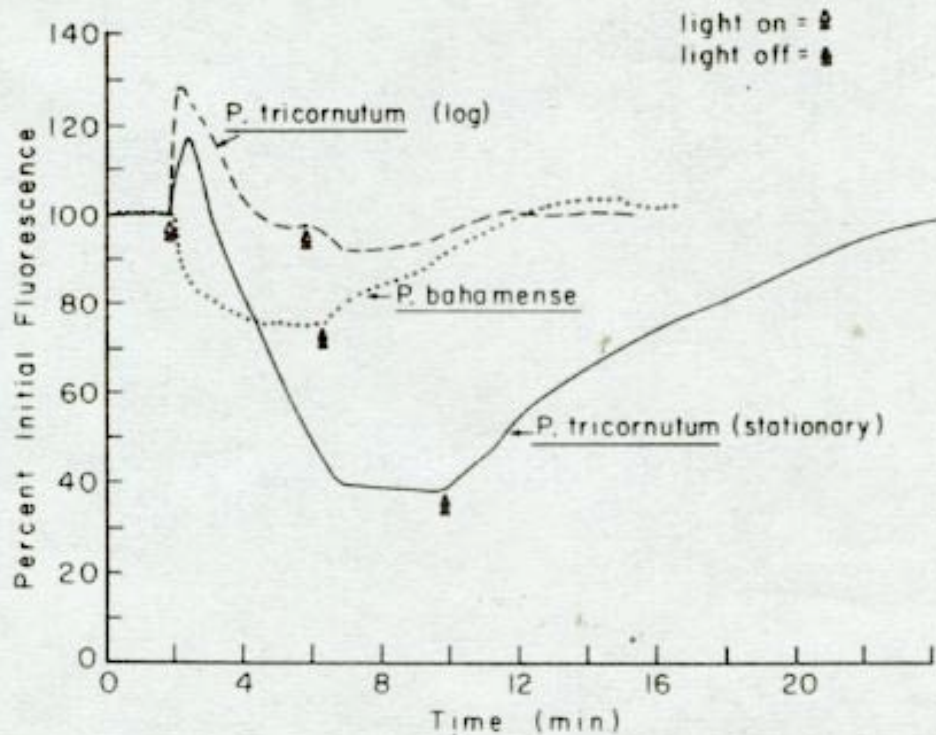
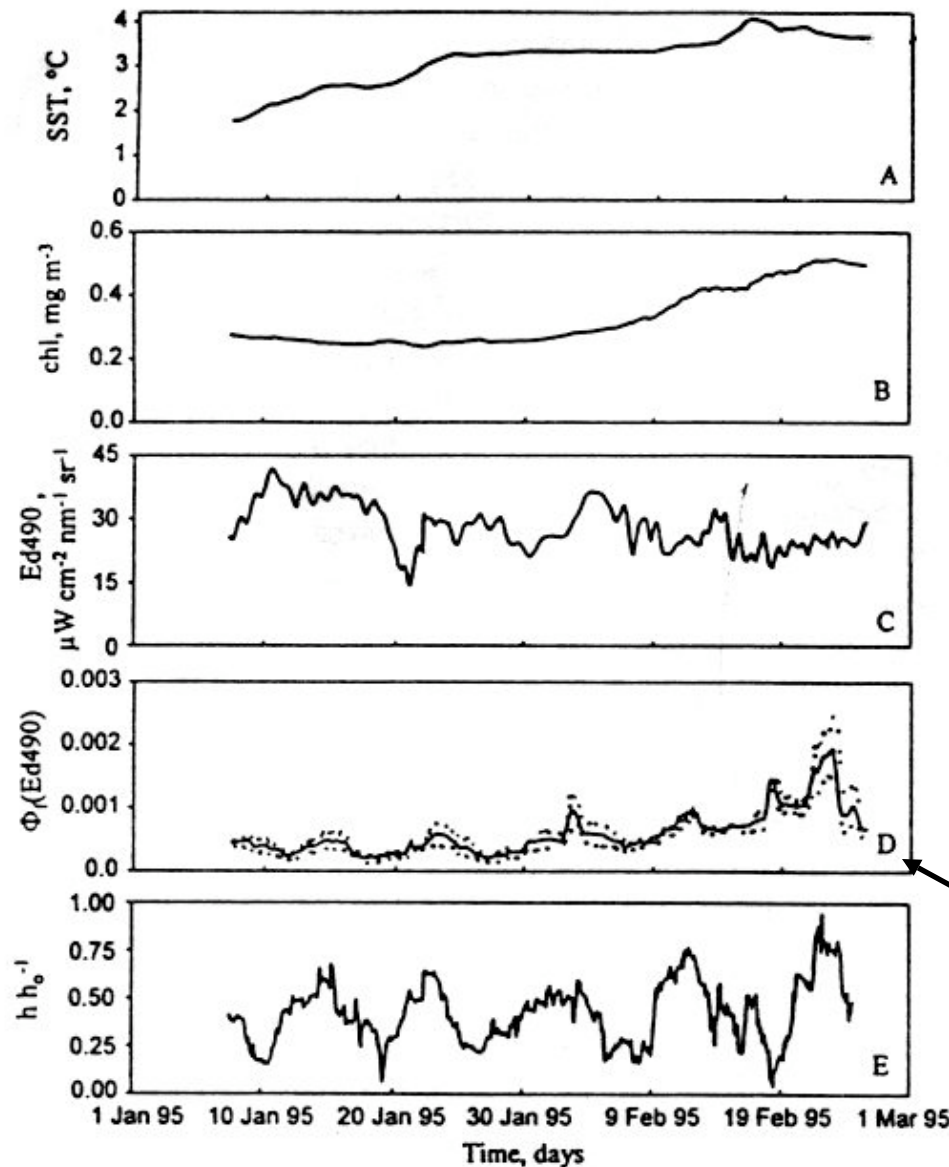


Fig. 4. The Kautsky induction effect elicited by conditions described in text for a natural population of *P. bahamense* and for *P. tricornutum* in log and stationary phase cultures.

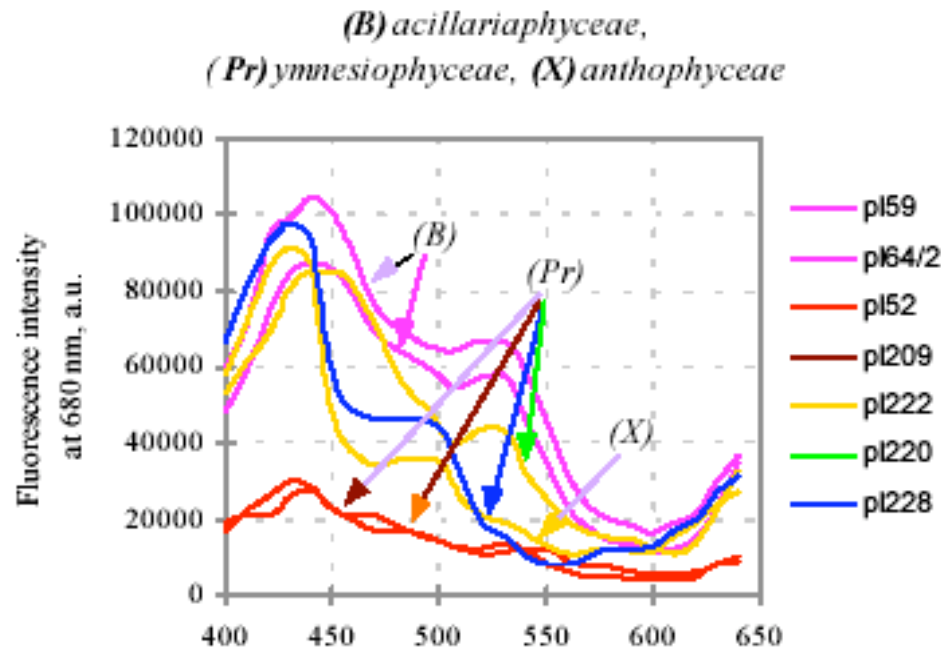
Loftus ME, Seliger HH (1975) Some limitations of the *in vivo* fluorescence technique. Chesapeake Sci. 16:79-92

**Information
on
physiological
status is
perhaps the
ultimate
reward**



Fluorescence Yield

Fluorescence can yield information on species composition

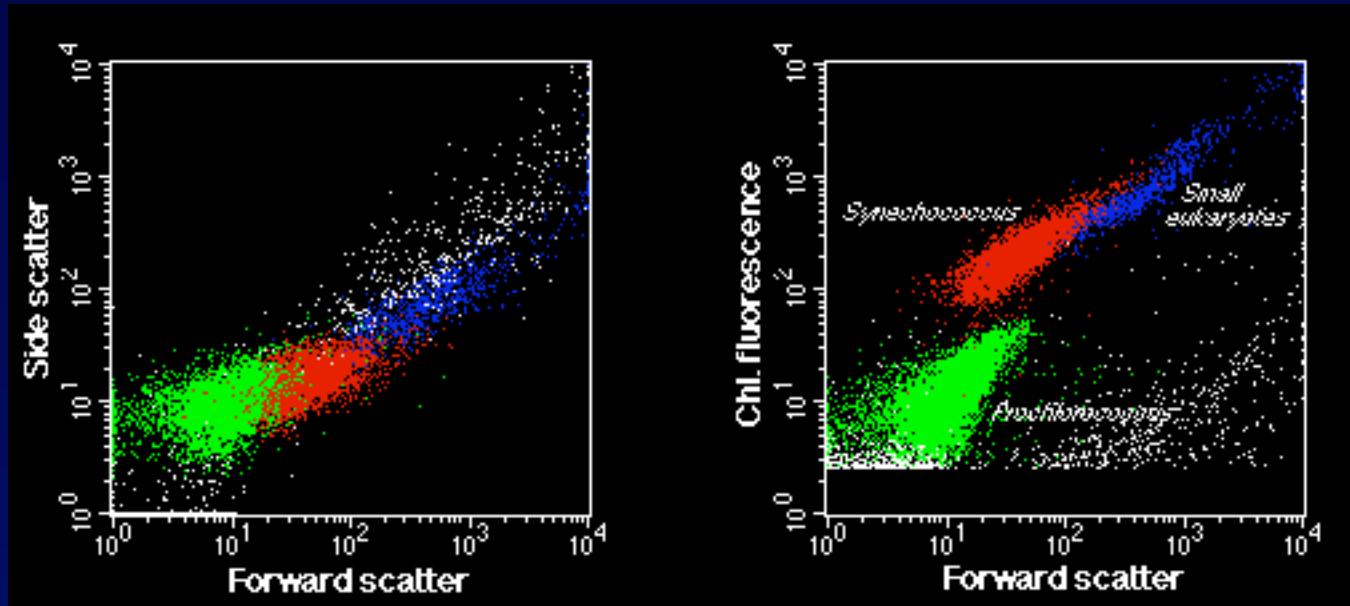


ANALYSIS OF PHYTOPLANKTON PIGMENTS BY EXCITATION SPECTRA OF FLUORESCENCE

Larisa Poryvkina, Sergey Babichenko and Aina Leeben

Institute of Ecology / LDI, Tallinn, Estonia

Flow Cytometry



www.bigelow.org/cytometry/Examples.html#GB

- Identification
- Physiological properties

Active Fluorescence

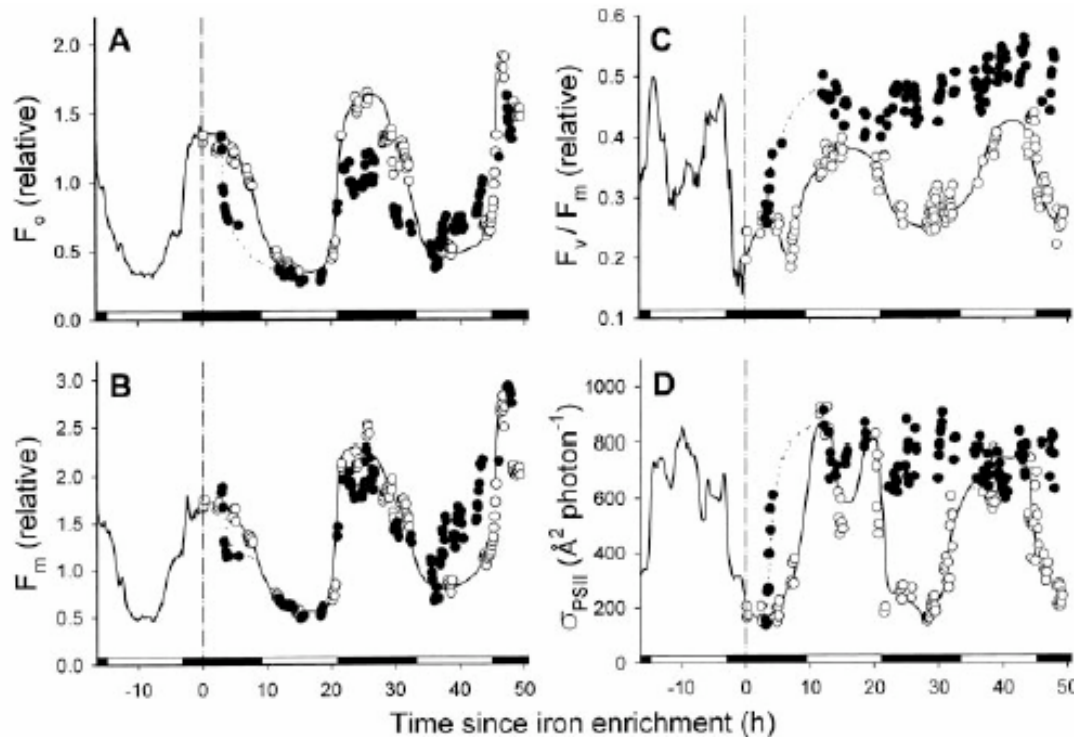


Fig. 2. Effects of in situ iron enrichment (2 nM iron) on diel fluorescence patterns in the South Pacific. (A) Initial fluorescence (F_o), (B) maximal fluorescence (F_m), (C) photochemical quantum efficiencies (F_v/F_m), (D) functional absorption cross sections of PSII (σ_{PSII}). Vertical dash-dot line indicates end of iron enrichment. Solid circles, fluorescence data collected inside the iron enrichment area; open circles, fluorescence data collected outside the enrichment area. Fluorescence patterns from the final day of the transect study (Fig. 1) are shown to the left of the vertical dash-dot line (negative time on x axis). Solid and open bars indicate night and day. Methods are described in (5, 7).

- FRRF
- PAM
- FRe
- Benchtop
- Submersible
- Physiology
- Controversies
- Technical issues

Behrenfeld and Kolber 1999, Science

...and
the rate of
photosynthesis

$$f(t) = F_o + (F_m - F_o) \left(C(t) \frac{1-p}{1-C(t)p} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial C(t)}{\partial I} = \sigma_{PS-II} \frac{1-C(t)}{1-C(t)p}.$$

$$\frac{dC(t)}{dt} = \sigma_{PS} \Pi \frac{dI}{dt} \frac{1-C(t)}{1-C(t)p} = \sigma_{PS} \Pi i(t) \frac{1-C(t)}{1-C(t)p}$$

$$C(t) = \int_0^t \sigma_{PS II} i(v) \frac{1-C(v)}{1-C(v)p} dv,$$

$$C(t) = \int_0^t \sigma_{PS II} i(v) \frac{1-C(v)}{1-C(v)p} g(t-v) dv$$

$$g(t-v) = g(\Delta t) = \alpha_1 \exp(-\Delta t/\tau_1)$$

$$+\alpha_2 \exp(-\Delta t/\tau_2) + \alpha_3 \exp(-\Delta t/\tau_3).$$

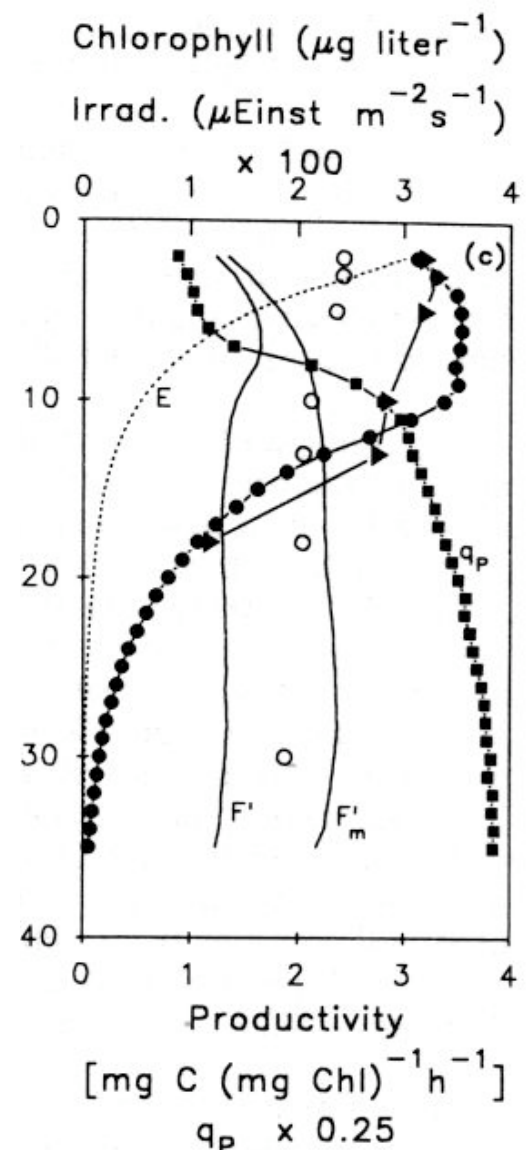
$$f_n = F_o + (F_m - F_o) C_n \frac{1-p}{1-C_n p}$$

$$C_n - C_{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^m A_{n,k} + I_n \sigma_{PS II} \frac{1 - \left(C_{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^m A_{n,k} \right)}{1 - p \left(C_{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^m A_{n,k} \right)}$$

$$A_{n,k} = (A_{n-1,k} + C_{n-1}\alpha_k/\sigma_{\text{PS II}})\exp(-\Delta t/\tau_k).$$

$$C(t) = \sigma_{PS II} \int_0^t i(v) \frac{F_m - f(v)}{F_m - F_0} dv = \sigma_{PS II} \int_0^t [i(v) q_p(v)] dv.$$

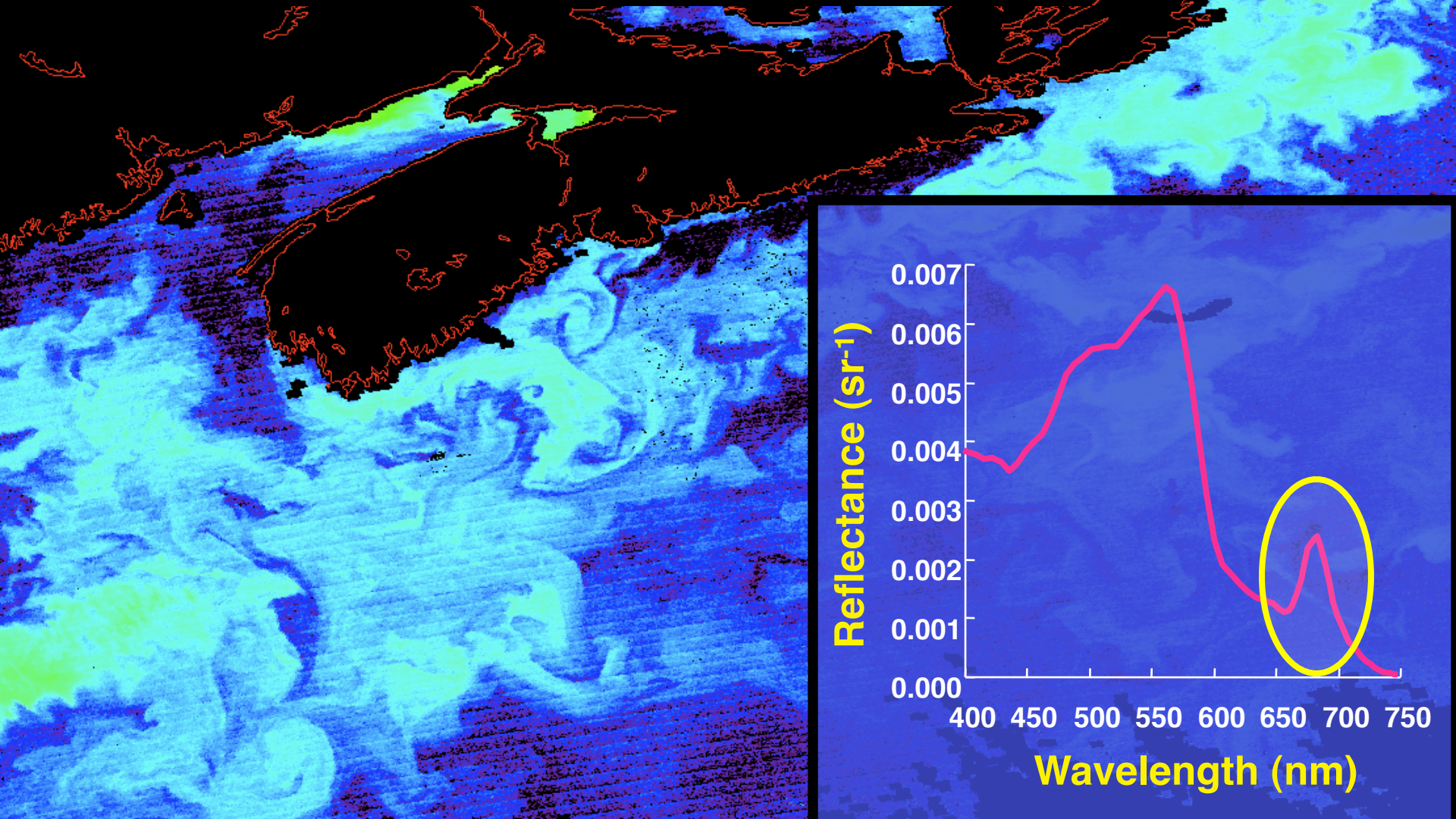
$$\sigma_{\text{PS II}} = \left[\int_0^\infty [i(v)q_p(v)]dv \right]^{-1}$$



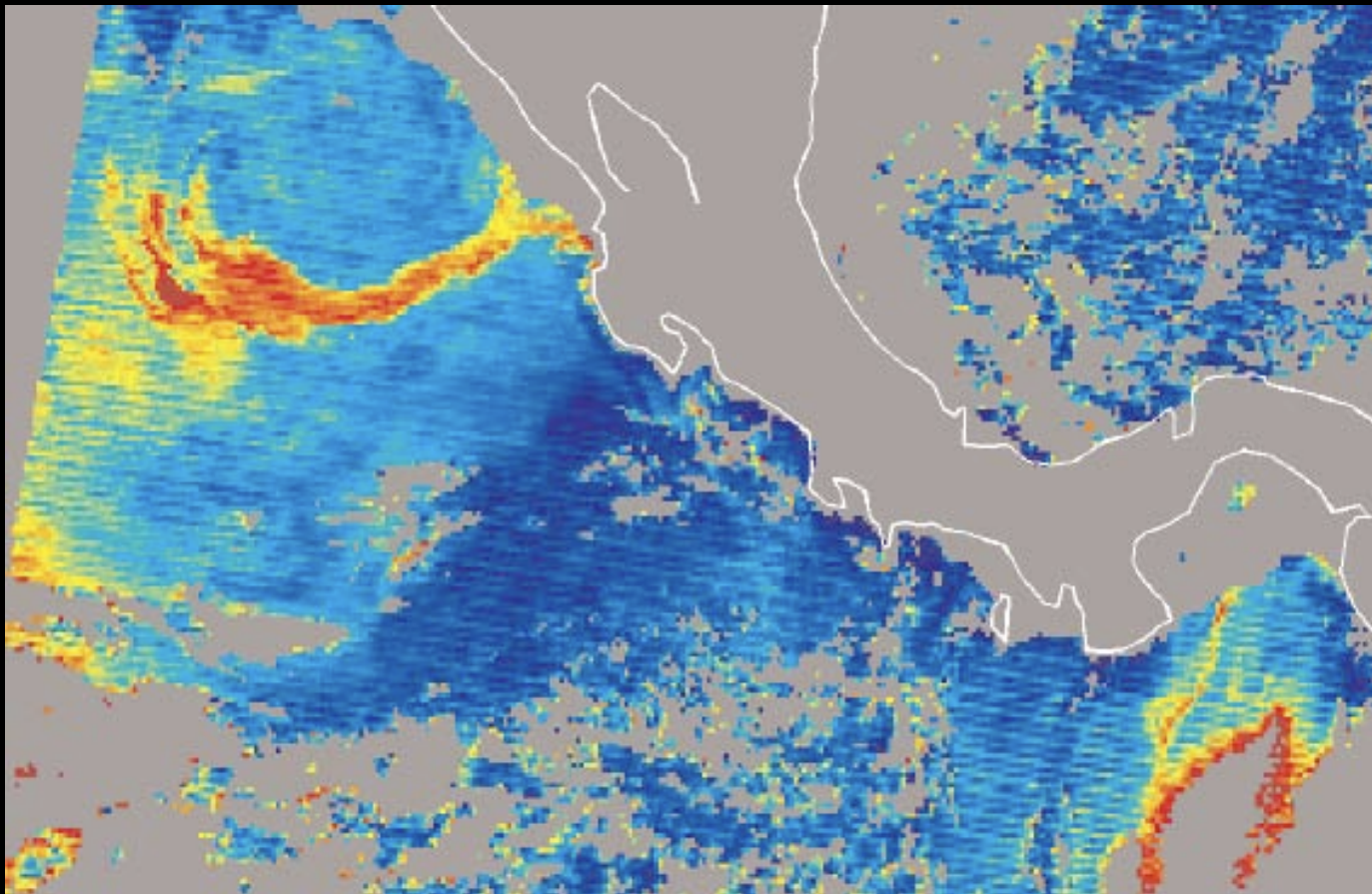
Kolber Z, Falkowski PG (1993) Use of active fluorescence to estimate phytoplankton photosynthesis in situ. *Limnology and Oceanography* 38:1646-1665

Sun Induced Chlorophyll Fluorescence:

The only signal emitted from the ocean and detectable from space that can be unambiguously ascribed to phytoplankton



The big goal:
Interpreting natural variability of φ_f as detected
from space



What does an oceanographer need to know?

What does an oceanographer need to know?

- Principles of measurement

What does an oceanographer need to know?

- Principles of measurement
- Physiological processes

What does an oceanographer need to know?

- Principles of measurement
- Physiological processes
- Environmental influences

What does an oceanographer need to know?

- Principles of measurement
- Physiological processes
- Environmental influences
- Taxonomic variability

What does an oceanographer need to know?

- Principles of measurement
- Physiological processes
- Environmental influences
- Taxonomic variability

...and interactions among all of these

Measurement of Fluorescence



History: 1966

In the beginning...

Deep-Sea Research, 1966, Vol. 13, pp. 223 to 227. Pergamon Press Ltd. Printed in Great Britain.

A method for the continuous measurement of *in vivo* chlorophyll concentration*

CARL J. LORENZEN†

(Received 7 December 1965)

Abstract—*In vivo* chlorophyll, like many other organic molecules, possesses the ability to fluoresce. This fluorescence was measured continuously with a modified model III Turner fluorometer at sea. Reliable readings were obtained over the range of 0.04–2.0 mg chlorophyll *a* m⁻³ while on a 21-day cruise off the coast of Baja California. Since the relationship between fluorescence and chlorophyll was linear on all scales, it should be possible to continuously monitor chlorophyll from 0.04 to between 10 and 15 mg m⁻³, a range adequate for all open ocean studies.

Benchtop Fluorometer



- Blue Excitation
- Red emission
- Discrete samples
- Flow-through
- Low excitation
- High sensitivity

Turner, Turner Designs (brown), Turner Designs (black)
(watch out for lamp changes)

Pandora's Box



Lorenzen covered the bases

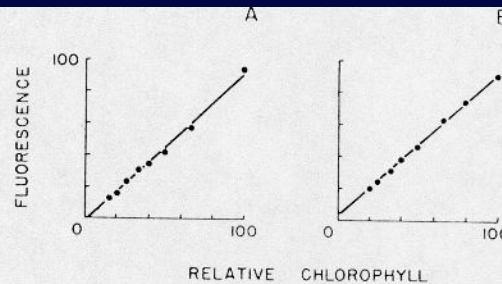


Fig. 1. Linear relationship between relative chlorophyll, serial dilutions of a single population with PH Millipore® filtered seawater, and *in vivo* fluorescence. Curve A, 1X sensitivity scale, and B 3X sensitivity scale.

the blank readings are probably the result of light scattering and/or light leakage through the color filters.

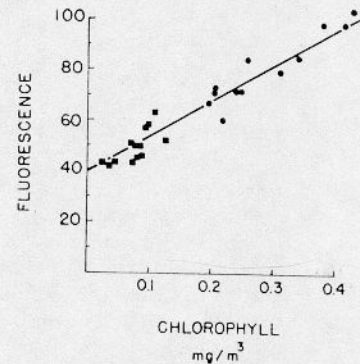


Fig. 2. Calibration curve for the 30X sensitivity scale. *In vivo* fluorescence plotted against extracted chlorophyll *a* values. Regression: $Y = 38.6 + 146 X$. Squares are from offshore and circles from nearshore.

Calibration, linearity, possible interference

Lorenzen 1966

Early application: Transects of Chlorophyll

226

Instruments and Methods

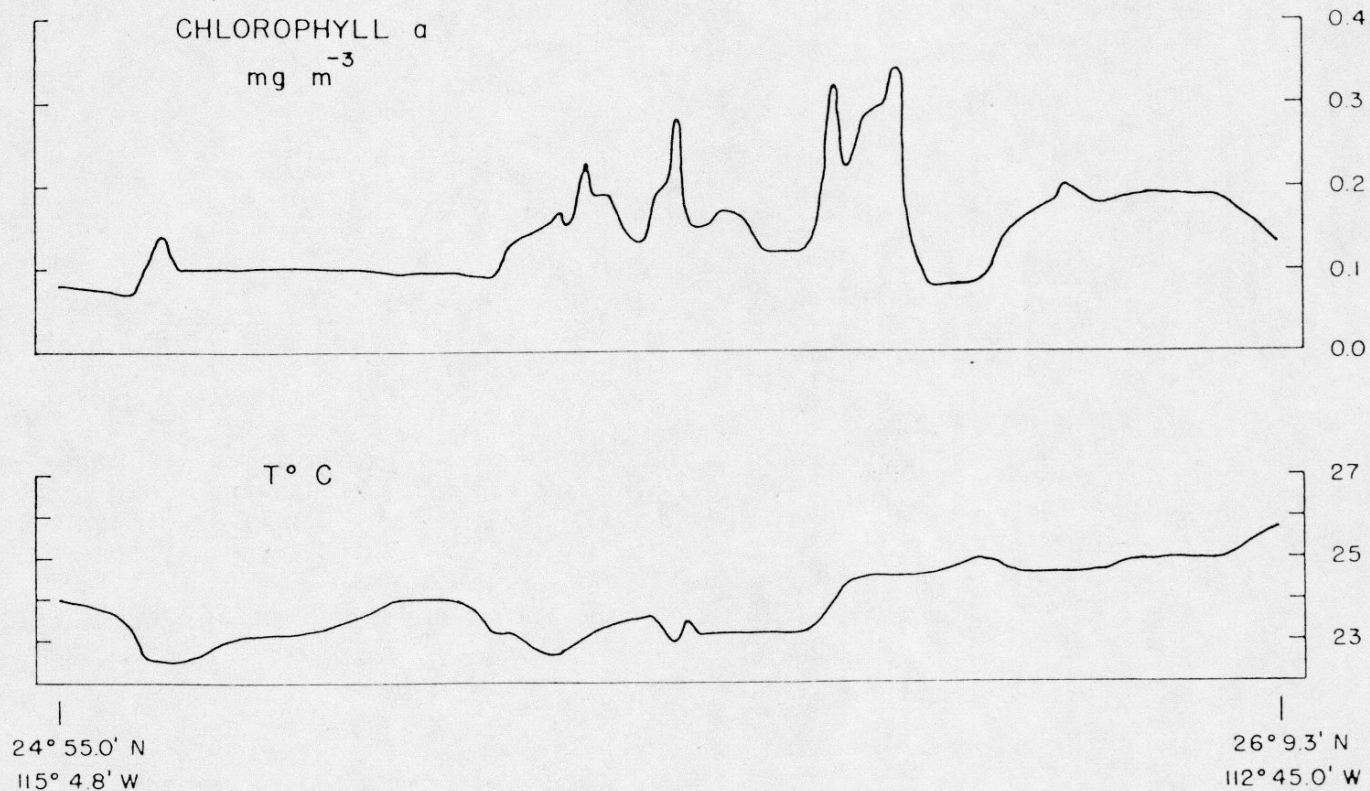
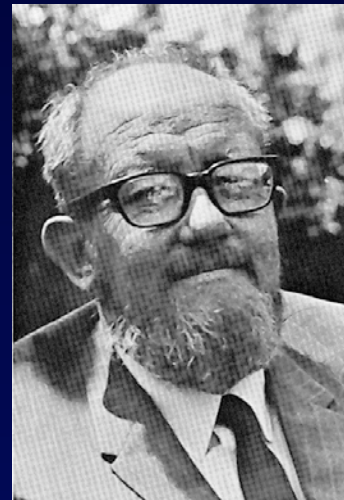


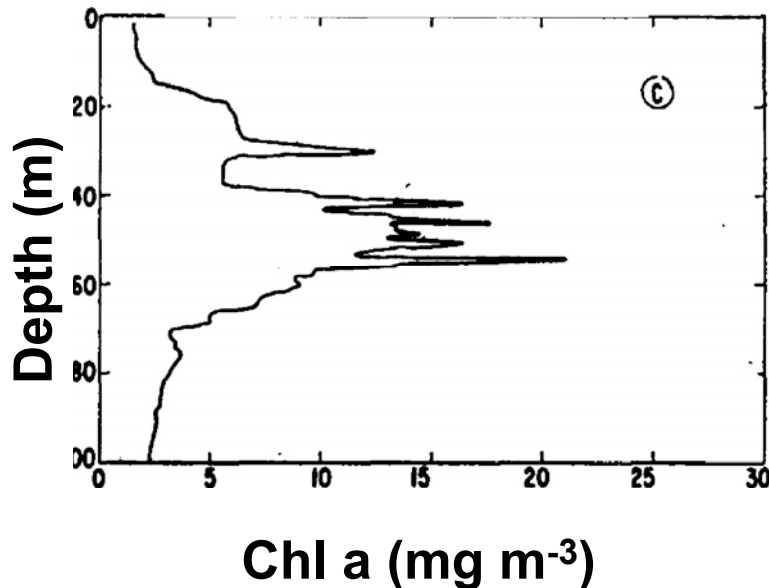
Fig. 3. A portion of the trace obtained on cruise TO-65-1 showing variations in chlorophyll *a* concentrations and temperature as the ship proceeded from 24° 55.0'N–115° 04.8'W to 26° 09.3'N 112° 45.0'W.

Continuous vertical profiles



John Strickland
and the
Food Chain
Research Group
1967 Red Tide Study

*Strickland: Ecology of the Plankton
off La Jolla, California*



Fluorescence
Carl Lorenzen

Strickland: Ecology of the Plankton off La Jolla, California

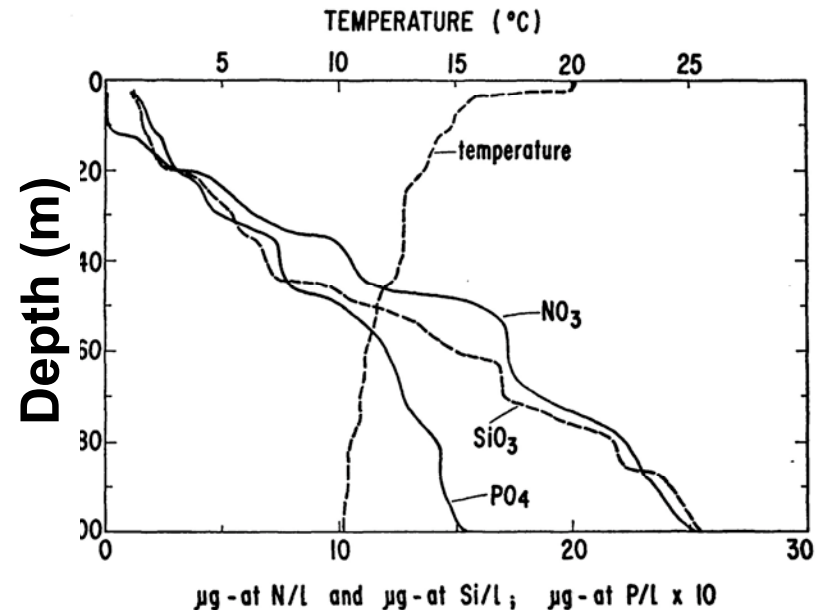


Fig. I-8. Profile of phosphate, nitrate, and silicate concentrations and temperature at station 3, 19 July 1967.

Nutrients, too!

*Lorenzen described the
measurement of blanks*

Volume 12 (2) June 2003

Pages 29–35

LIMNOLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY
BULLETIN

Published by the American
Society of Limnology
and Oceanography

**THE BLANK CAN MAKE A
BIG DIFFERENCE IN
OCEANOGRAPHIC
MEASUREMENTS**

*John J. Cullen and Richard E. Davis, Department of Oceanography,
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS B3H 4J1 Canada;
john.cullen@dal.ca, richard.davis@dal.ca*

In situ Fluorometer

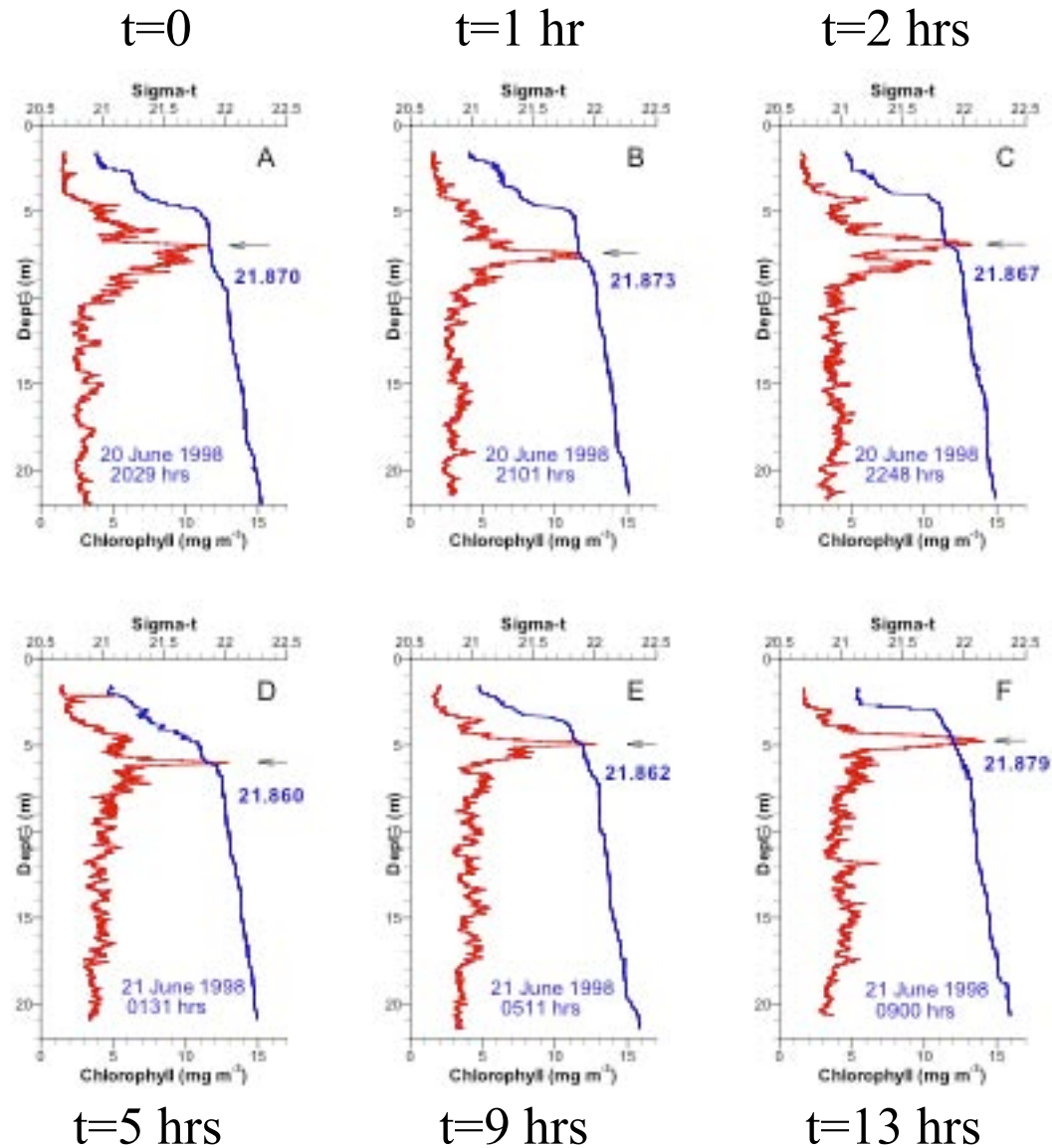


- Profilers
- Moorings
- Pulsed
- High sensitivity
- Ambient irradiance influences fluorescence yield

Frequency, intensity and spectral quality of excitation varies with manufacturer.

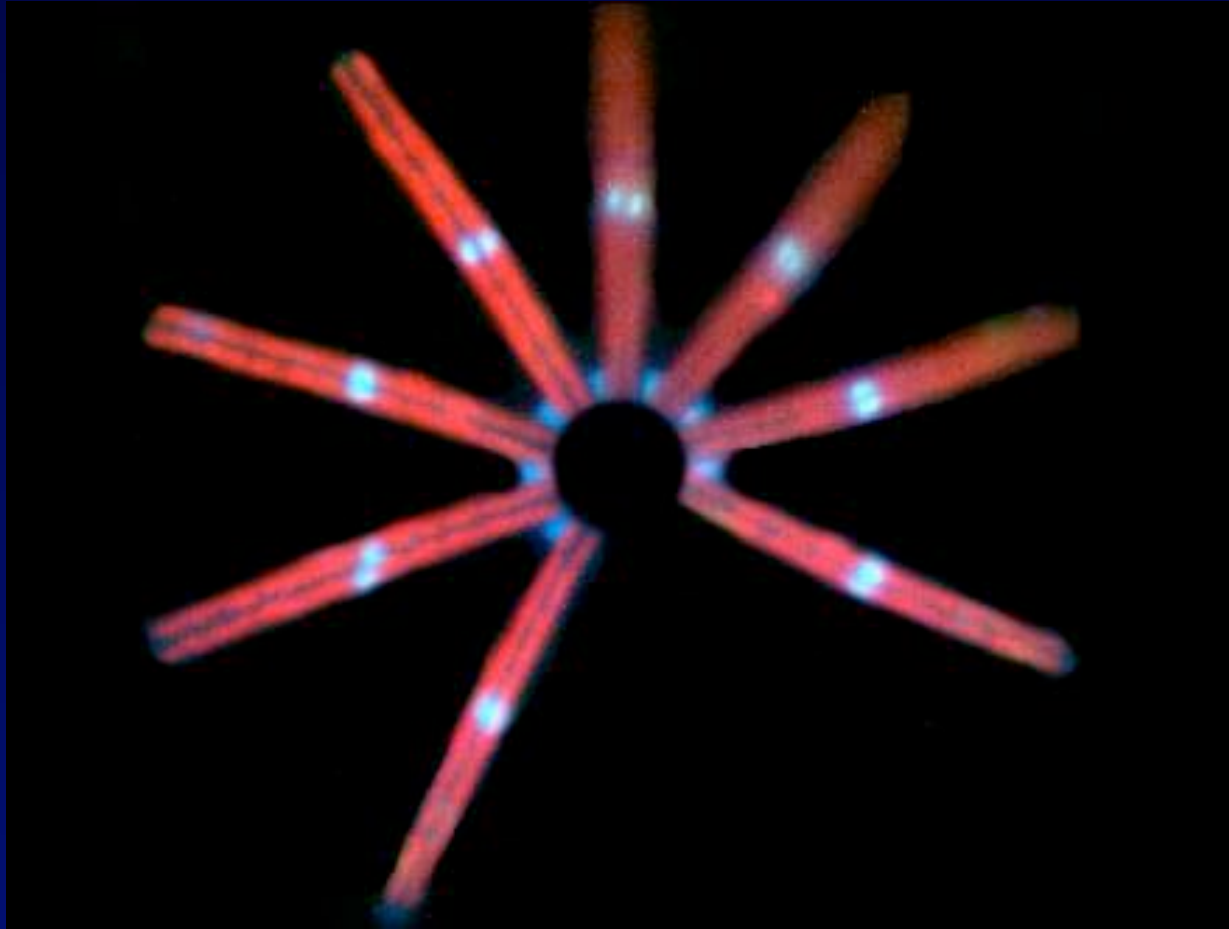
Now an indispensable tool

Six vertical profiles of chlorophyll fluorescence (mg m^{-3}) and sigma-t (kg m^{-3}) from a 13 hr time series of 90 profiles.



...but what do fluorometers measure?

chlorophyll fluorescence, not chlorophyll



Sieracki

John Cullen – Agouron – 2008

Physiological effects on fluorescence yield (F1/Chl) were recognized early

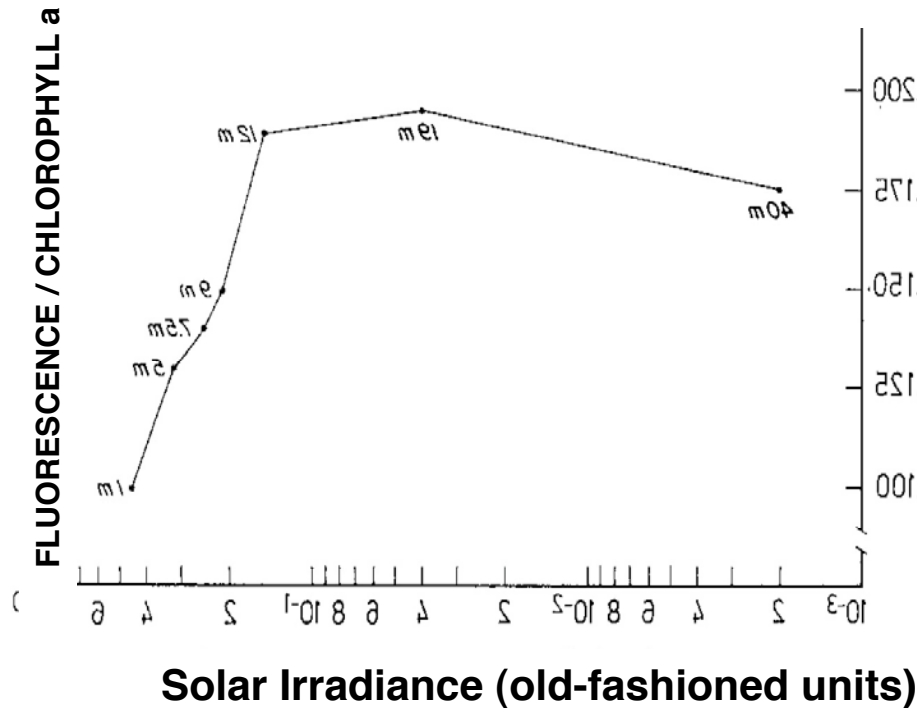


Fig. 4. Fluorescence numbers as function of downwelling solar irradiance (ly/min) for vertical profile off Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Number next to each point gives depth of sample. Irradiance was measured with the Scripps spectroradiometer

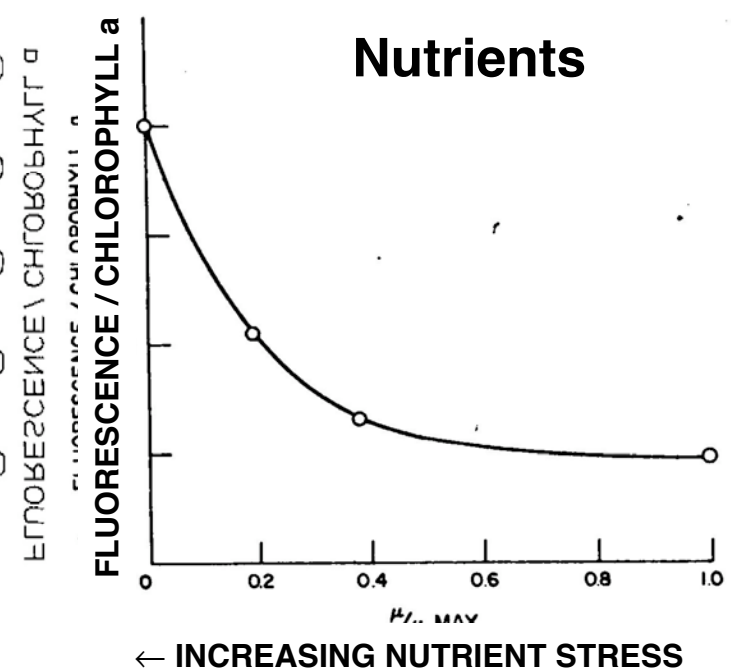


Fig. 8. *Cyclotella nana*. Effect of nitrogen deficiency upon fluorescence number for 4 cultures. Stress was described by the ratio μ/μ_{max} , where μ is specific growth rate of culture (divisions/day), and μ_{max} is maximal specific growth rate (1.6 divisions/day) for culturing conditions

Kiefer DA (1973) Fluorescence properties of natural phytoplankton assemblages. Marine Biology 22:263-269

Loftus ME, Seliger HH (1975) Some limitations of the *in vivo* fluorescence technique. Chesapeake Sci. 16:79-92

Natural variability of fluorescence yield was quantified and tentatively interpreted: effects of nutrition and irradiance

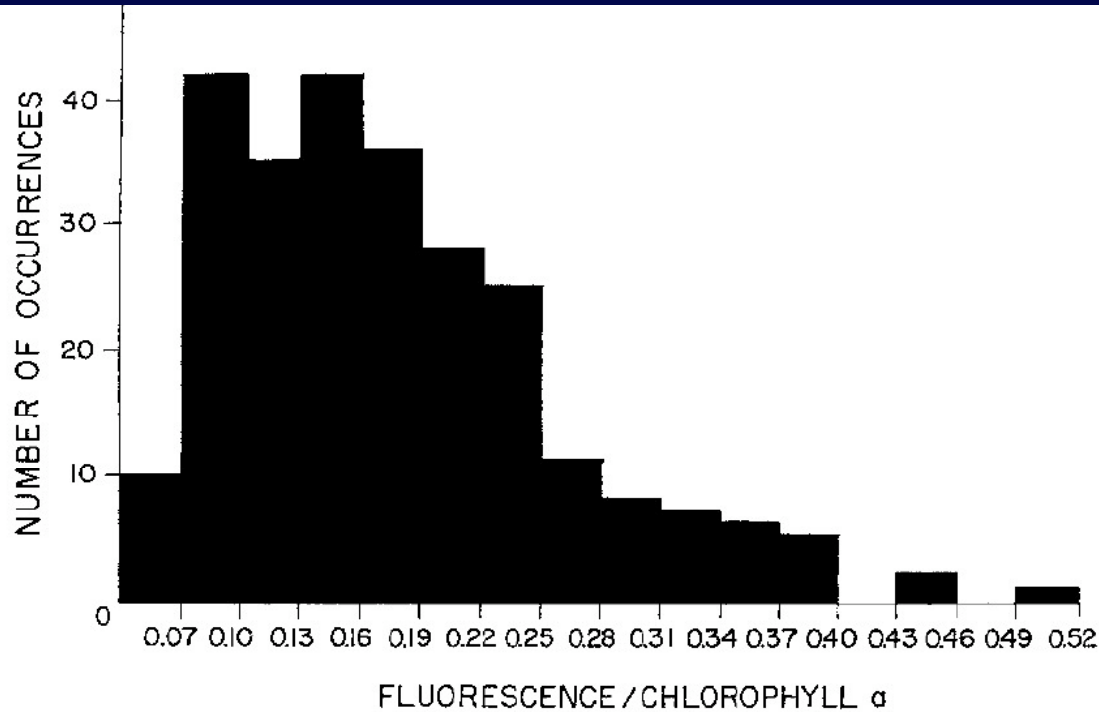


Fig. 1. Frequency polygon for all 250 measurements of fluorescence number made in coastal waters, Lake Tahoe, and Central North Pacific Gyre

Kiefer DA (1973) Fluorescence properties of natural phytoplankton assemblages. *Marine Biology* 22:263-269

Loftus ME, Seliger HH (1975) Some limitations of the *in vivo* fluorescence technique. *Chesapeake Sci.* 16:79-92

Variability in the quantum yield of fluorescence:

φ_f (mols photons emitted per mol photons absorbed)

can be expressed in terms of rate constants
(k , s^{-1}) for the three possible fates of absorbed photons:

FLUORESCENCE, PHOTOSYNTHESIS, HEAT

$$\varphi_f = \frac{k_f}{k_f + k_p + k_H}$$

Variability in the quantum yield of fluorescence:

φ_f (mols photons emitted per mol photons absorbed)

can be expressed in terms of rate constants
(k , s^{-1}) for the three possible fates of absorbed photons:

FLUORESCENCE, PHOTOSYNTHESIS, HEAT

Fluorescence
(Constant)

$$\varphi_f = \frac{k_f}{k_f + k_p + k_H}$$

Variability in the quantum yield of fluorescence:

φ_f (mols photons emitted per mol photons absorbed)

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(k , s^{-1}) for the three possible fates of absorbed photons:

FLUORESCENCE, PHOTOSYNTHESIS, HEAT

Fluorescence
(Constant)

$$\varphi_f = \frac{k_f}{k_f + k_p + k_H}$$

Photosynthesis
(Variable)

Variability in the quantum yield of fluorescence:

φ_f (mols photons emitted per mol photons absorbed)

can be expressed in terms of rate constants
(k , s^{-1}) for the three possible fates of absorbed photons:

FLUORESCENCE, PHOTOSYNTHESIS, HEAT

Fluorescence
(Constant)

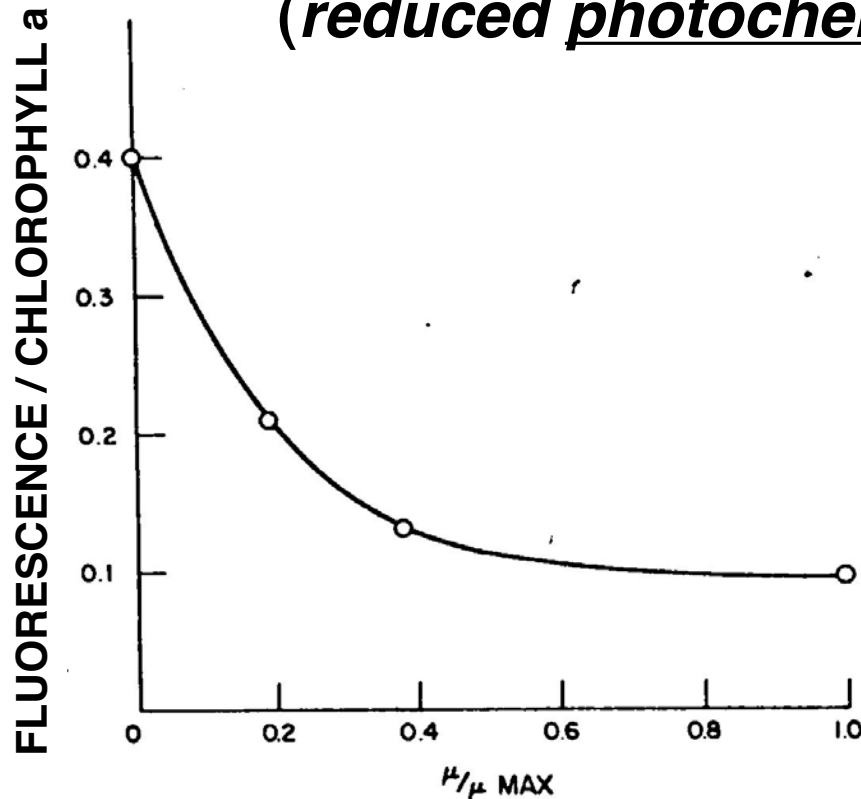
$$\varphi_f = \frac{k_f}{k_f + k_p + k_H}$$

Photosynthesis
(Variable)

Heat
(Variable)

Nutrient Stress

Leading to Higher Fluorescence Yield (*reduced photochemical quenching*)



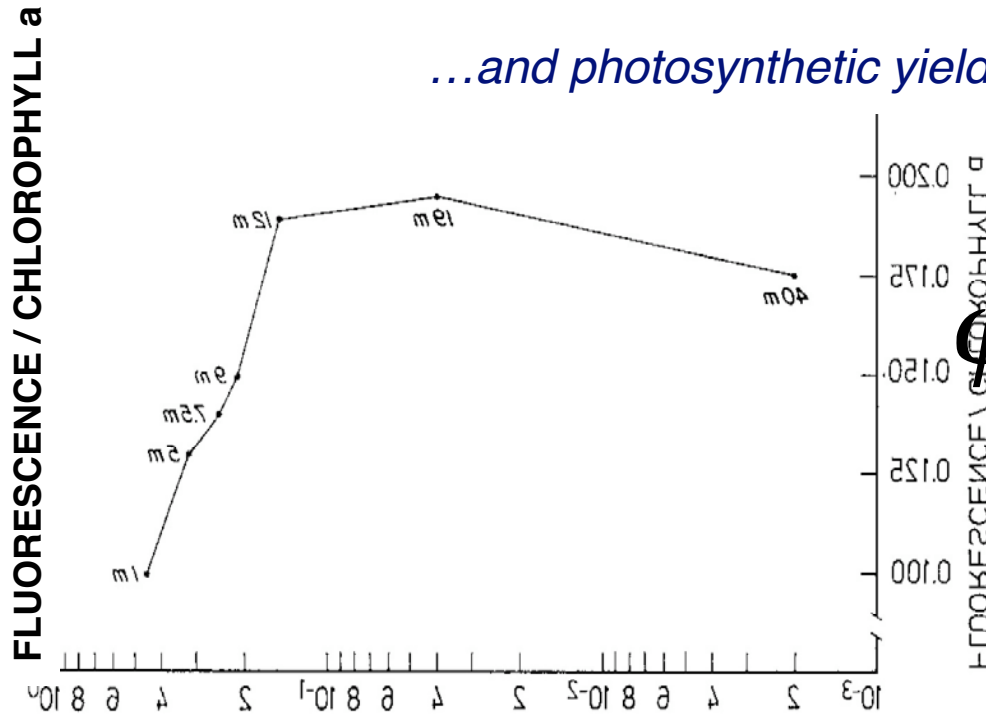
← INCREASING NUTRIENT STRESS

$$\phi_f = \frac{k_f}{k_f + k_p + k_H}$$

k_p decreases and
 ϕ_f increases

Excess Irradiance Leads to Lower Fluorescence Yield (*increased nonphotochemical quenching*)

...and photosynthetic yield is reduced as well



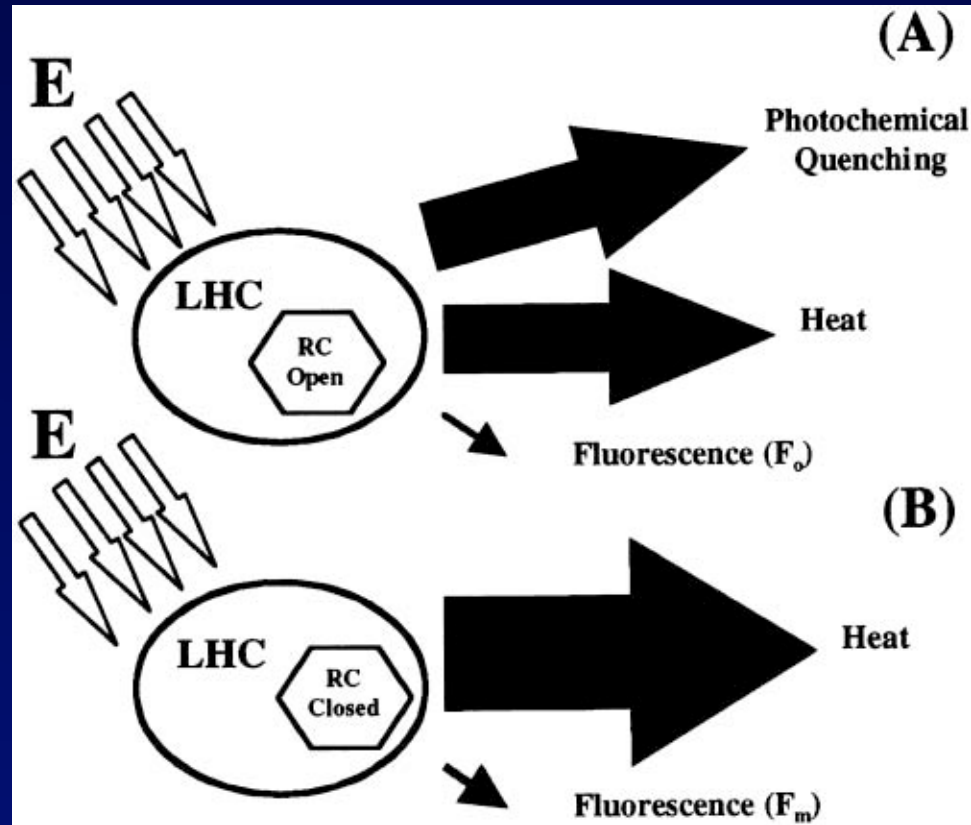
INCREASING IRRADIANCE →

Solar Irradiance (old-fashioned units)

$$\phi_f = \frac{k_f}{k_f + k_p + k_H}$$

k_H increases and
 ϕ_f decreases

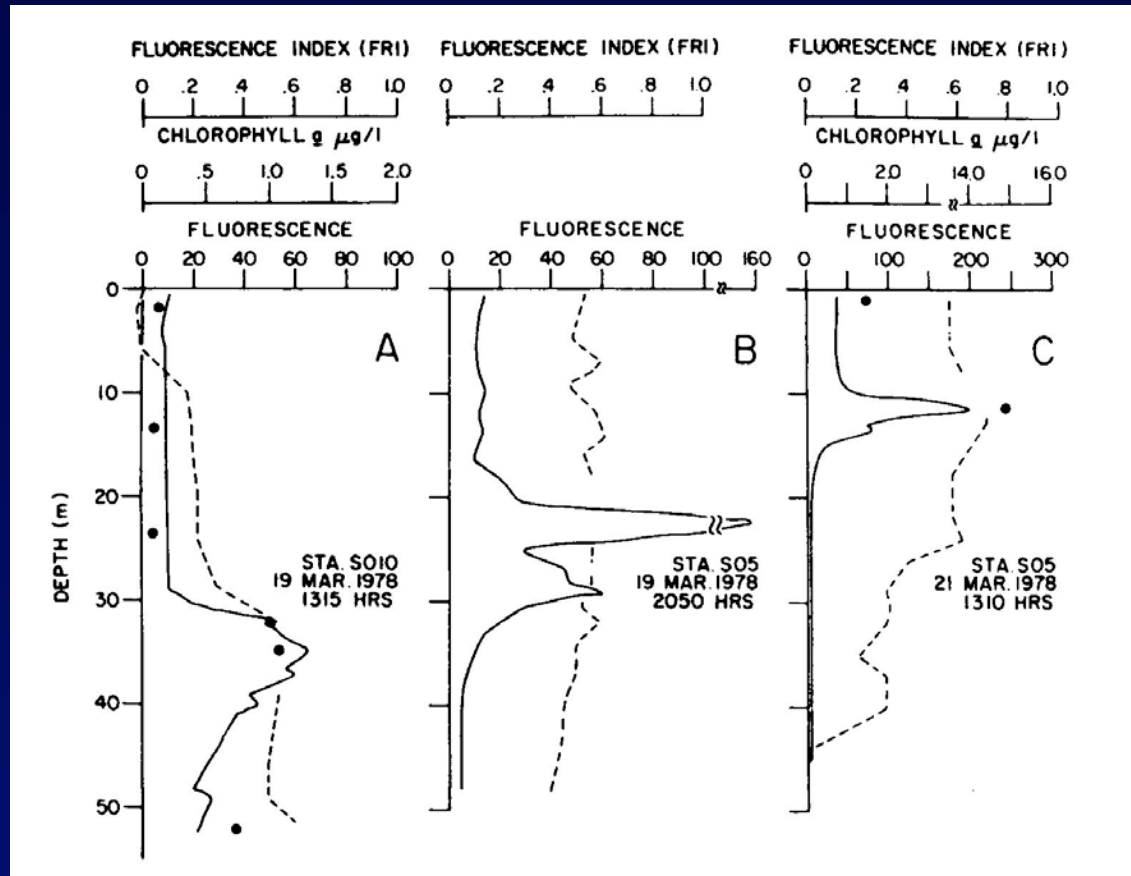
Photosynthetic Efficiency Explored by Measuring Change in Fluorescence upon Closure of Reaction Centers (e.g., F_v/F_m with DCMU)



Samuelsson, G. and G. Öquist (1977). "A method for studying photosynthetic capacities of unicellular algae based on in vivo chlorophyll fluorescence." *Plant Physiology* 40: 315-319.

Parkhill et al. 2001

The first continuous measurements of F_v / F_m employed the Turner Designs



Cullen JJ, Renger EH (1979) Continuous measurement of the DCMU-induced fluorescence response of natural phytoplankton populations. *Marine Biology* 53:13-20.

See also

Roy S, Legendre L (1979) DCMU-enhanced fluorescence as an index of photosynthetic activity in phytoplankton. *Marine Biology* 55:93-101

Roy S, Legendre L (1979) Field studies of DCMU-enhanced fluorescence as an index of in situ phytoplankton photosynthetic activity. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 37:1028-1031

Results were more provocative than conclusive

We may not know exactly what we are measuring, but the patterns observed are too strong to ignore.

Cullen JJ, Renger EH (1979) Continuous measurement of the DCMU-induced fluorescence response of natural phytoplankton populations. *Marine Biology* 53:13-20.

Conclusion (early 80's):

PERSPECTIVES

The Deep Chlorophyll Maximum: Comparing Vertical Profiles of Chlorophyll *a*

JOHN J. CULLEN¹

*Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Marine Ecology Laboratory, Bedford Institute of Oceanography,
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2*

CULLEN, J. J. 1982. The deep chlorophyll maximum: comparing vertical profiles of chlorophyll *a*. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 39: 791 – 803.

Conclusion (early 80's):

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CULLEN, J. J. 1982. The deep chlorophyll maximum: comparing vertical profiles of chlorophyll *a*. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 39: 791 – 803.

*Physiological and taxonomic influences on fluorescence yield
are sources of both errors and useful information.*

Conclusion (early 80's):

PERSPECTIVES

The Deep Chlorophyll Maximum: Comparing Vertical Profiles of Chlorophyll *a*

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*Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Marine Ecology Laboratory, Bedford Institute of Oceanography,
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2*

CULLEN, J. J. 1982. The deep chlorophyll maximum: comparing vertical profiles of chlorophyll *a*. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 39: 791 – 803.

Physiological and taxonomic influences on fluorescence yield are sources of both errors and useful information.

We should measure and interpret the variability of fluorescence yield in nature

1980 - 2006: Systematic comparison of yields fell by the wayside as other powerful approaches were pursued

Controls on tropical Pacific Ocean productivity revealed through nutrient stress diagnostics

Michael J. Behrenfeld¹, Kirby Worthington², Robert M. Sherrell³, Francisco P. Chavez⁴, Peter Strutton⁵, Michael McPhaden⁶ & Donald M. Shea⁷

Vol 442 | 31 August 2006 | doi:10.1038/nature05083

nature

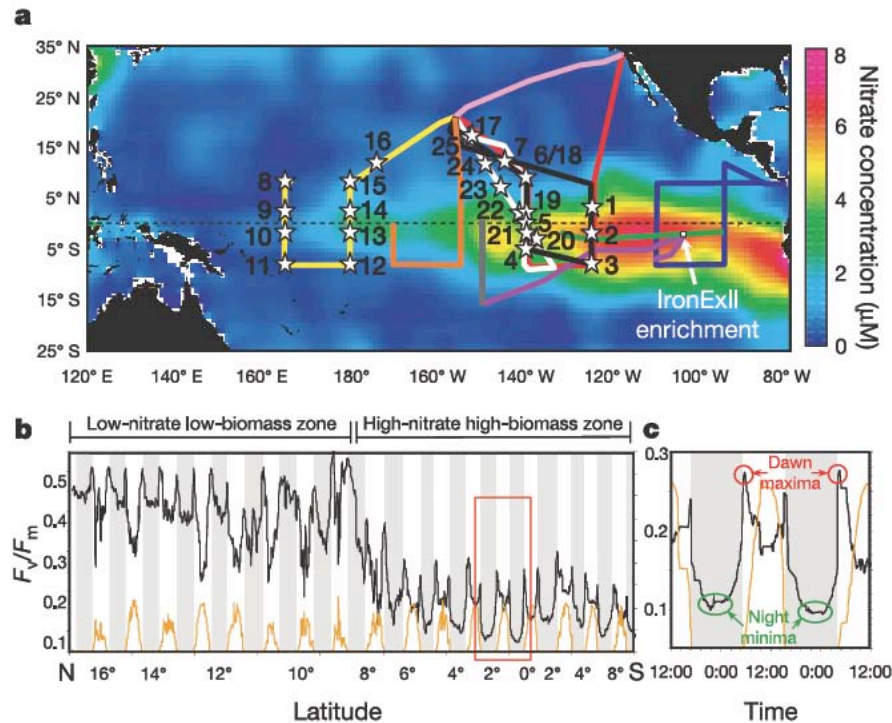


Figure 1 | The tropical Pacific study area. **a**, Ship transects (lines) and enrichment experiment locations (stars) for the top field studies. Transect

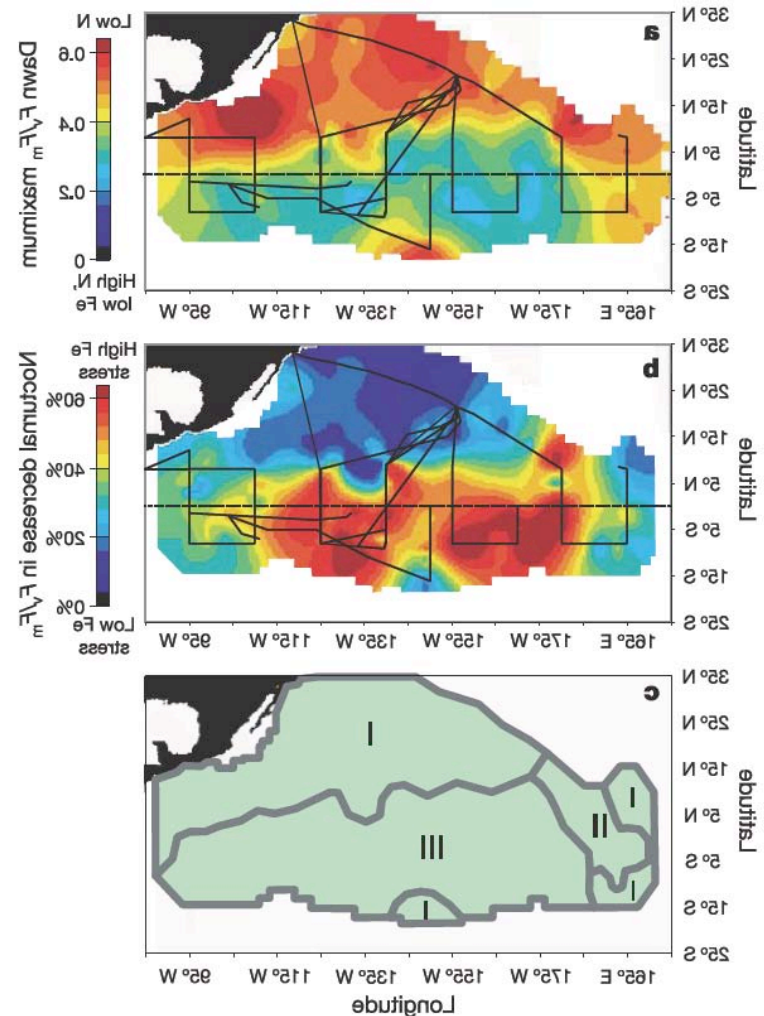


Figure 2 | Fluorescence diagnostics delineate three physiological regimes in the tropical Pacific. **a**, Dawn F_v/F_m maximum. **b**, Nocturnal decrease in

Meantime, sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence was studied on and off

Morel, A., and L. Prieur (1977), Analysis Oceanography, 22, 709-722.

Gordon, H. R. (1979), Estimation of the c for the remote sensing of chlorophyll a vi 1883-1884.

Topliss, B. J., and T. Platt (1986), Passive Implications for remote sensing, Deep-Sea

Fisher, J., and U. Kronfeld (1990), Sun-st of oceanic properties, International Journal

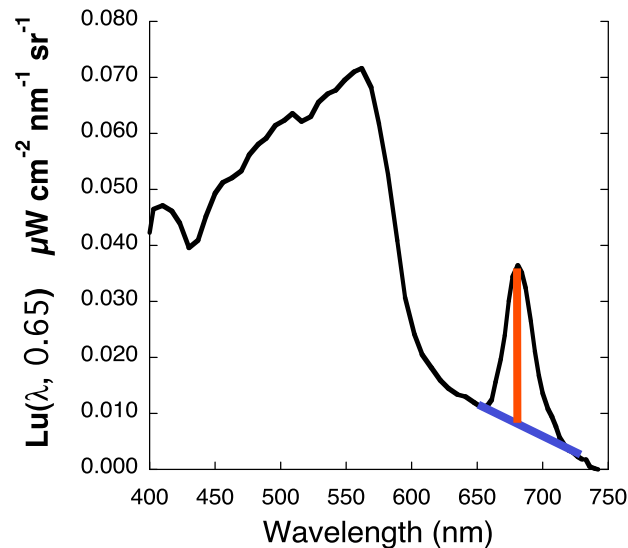
Gower, J. F. R., and G. A. Borstad (1990), fluorescence using an imaging spectrometer 11(2), 313-320.

Kiefer, D. A., W. S. Chamberlin, and C. J. chlorophyll a : relationship to photosynthesis South Pacific gyre. Limnol. Oceanogr. 34

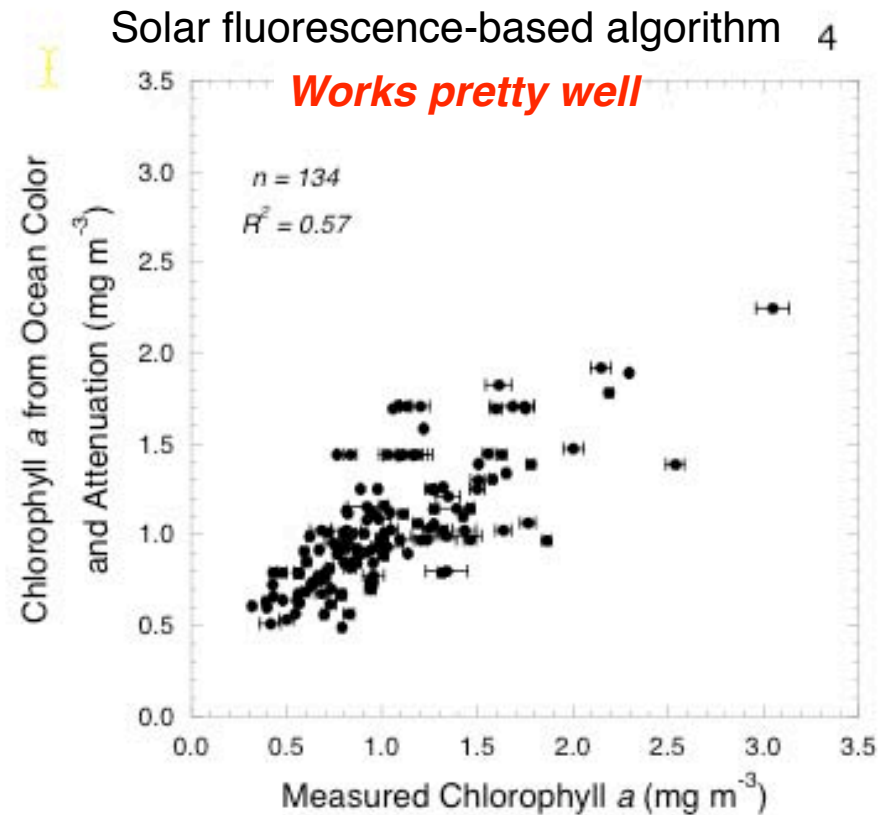
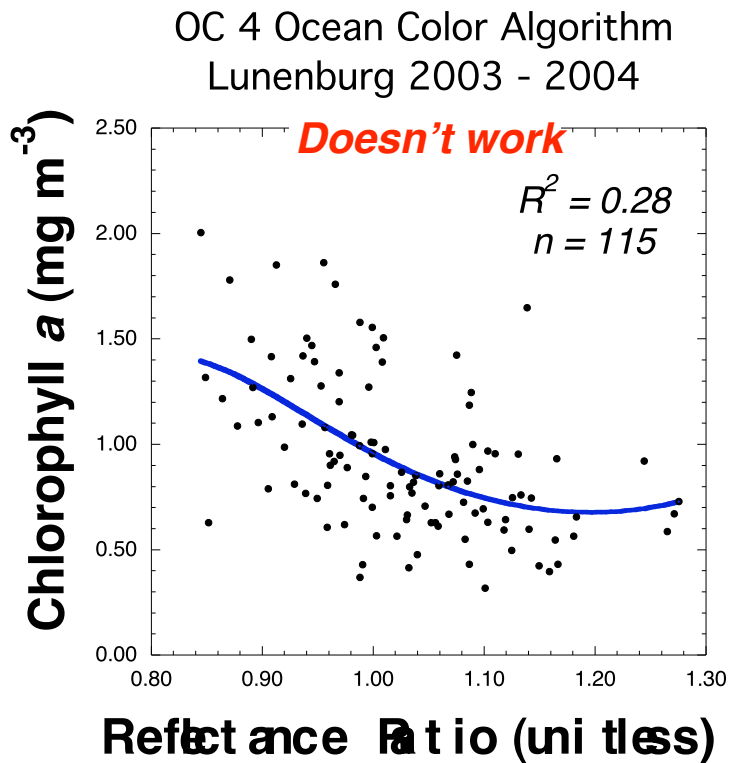
Stegmann, P. M., M. R. Lewis, C. O. Davis, and J. J. Cullen (1992), Primary production estimates from recordings of solar-stimulated fluorescence in the Equatorial Pacific at 150°W, Journal of Geophysical Research, 97(C1), 627-638.

Babin, M., A. Morel, and B. Gentili (1996), Remote sensing of sea surface sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence: consequences of natural variations in the optical characteristics of phytoplankton and the quantum yield of chlorophyll a fluorescence, International Journal of Remote Sensing, 17(2), 2417-2448.

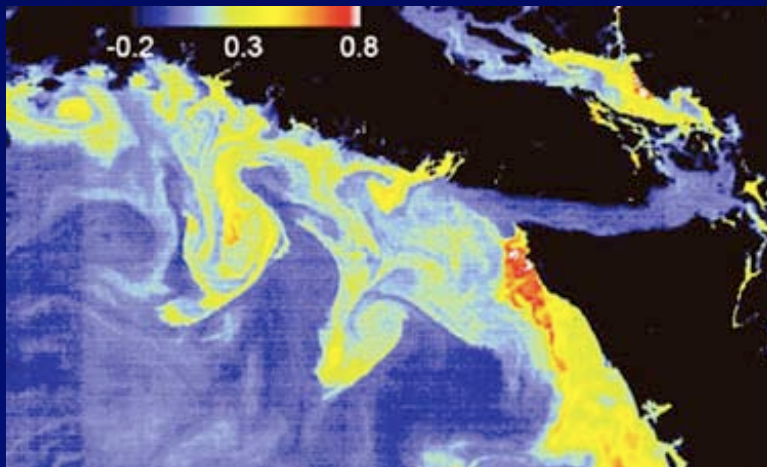
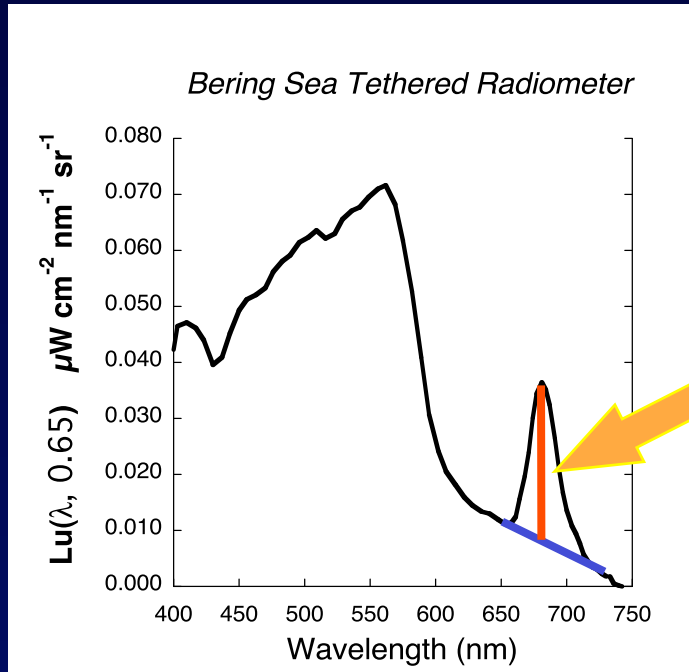
Garcia-Mendoza, E., and H. Maske (1996), The relationship of solar-stimulated natural fluorescence and primary productivity in Mexican Pacific waters, Limnology and Oceanography, 41(8), 1697-1710.



Possibly the only hope for detecting relatively low concentration of phytoplankton in the presence of CDOM and



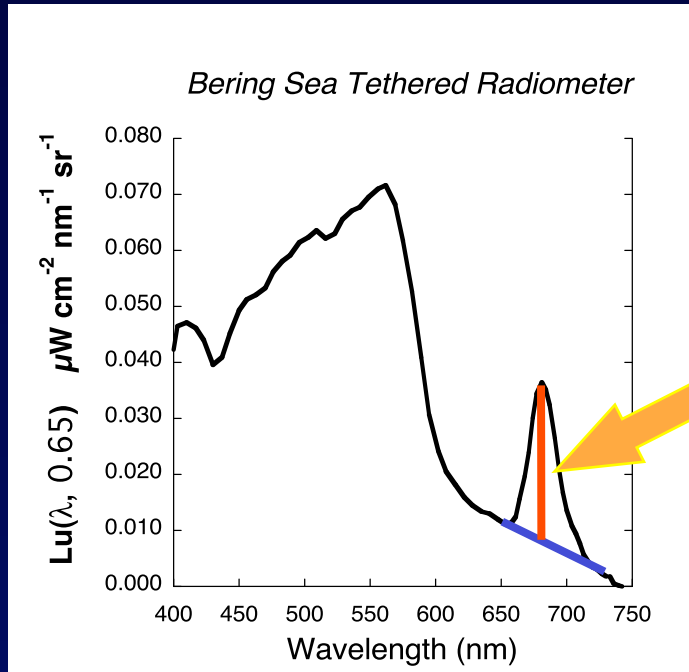
Fluorescence line height (FLH): A proxy for F



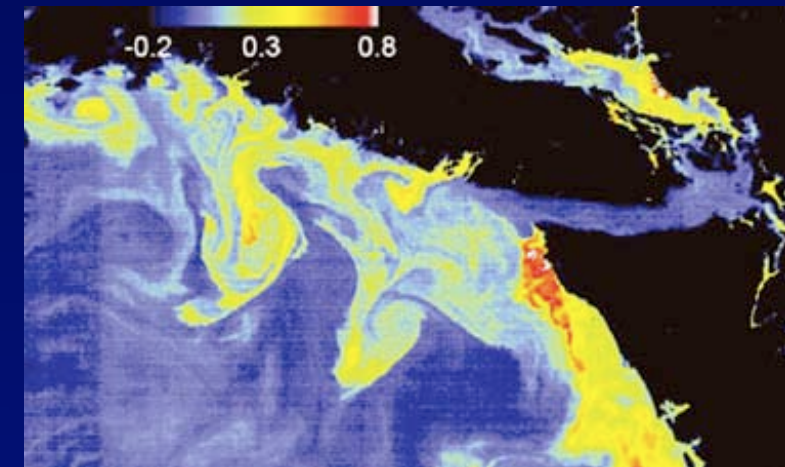
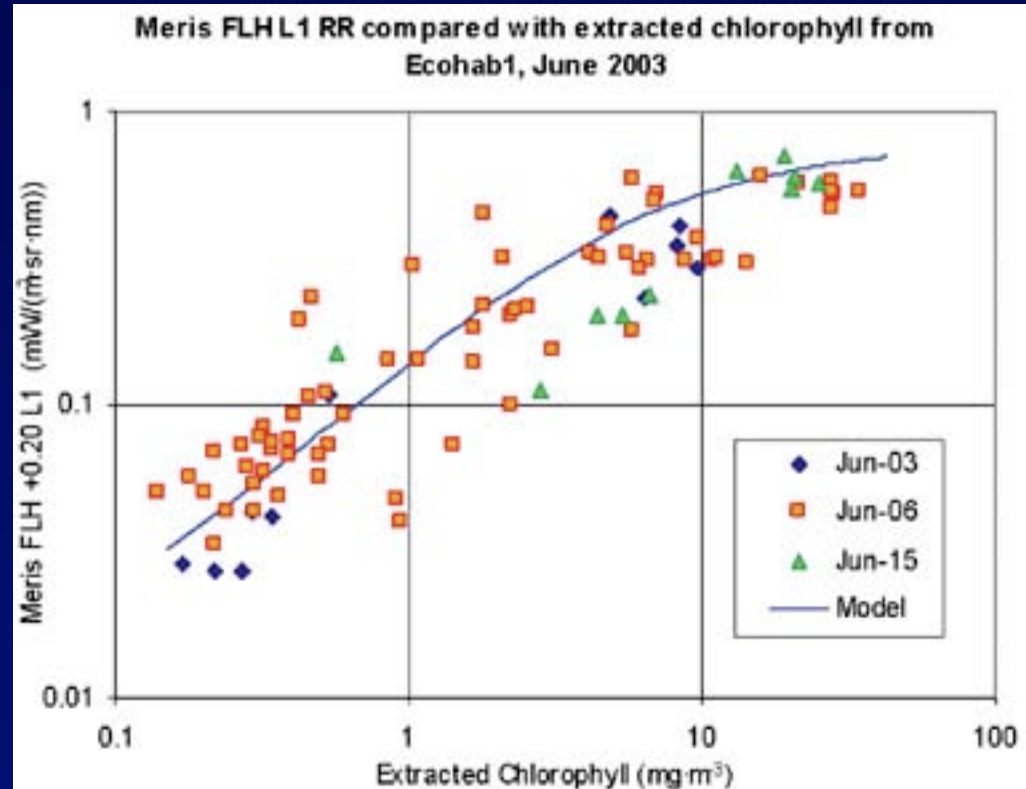
Gayana 68(2) supl. t.I. Proc. : 252-258, 2004 ISSN 0717-652X <http://www.scielo.cl/>
SATELLITE FLUORESCENCE AS A MEASURE OF OCEAN SURFACE CHLOROPHYLL

Jim Gower & Stephanie King

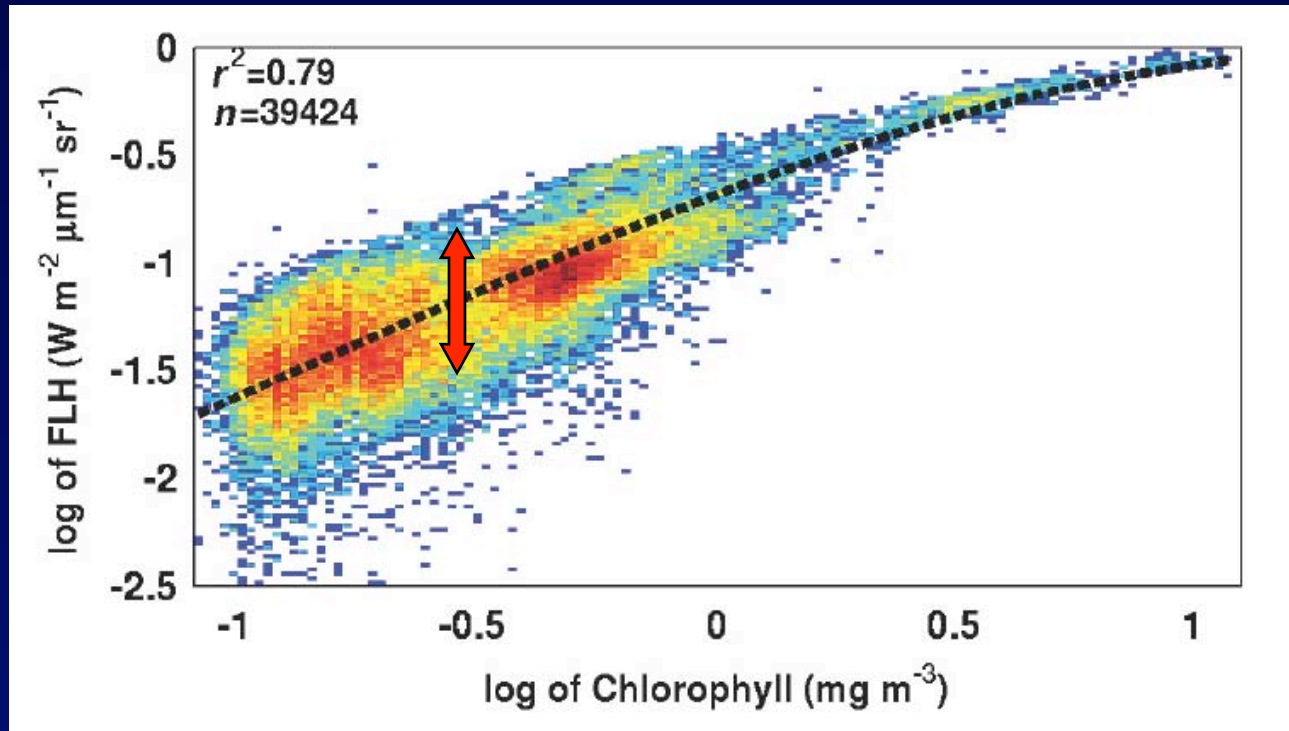
Fluorescence line height (FLH): A proxy for F



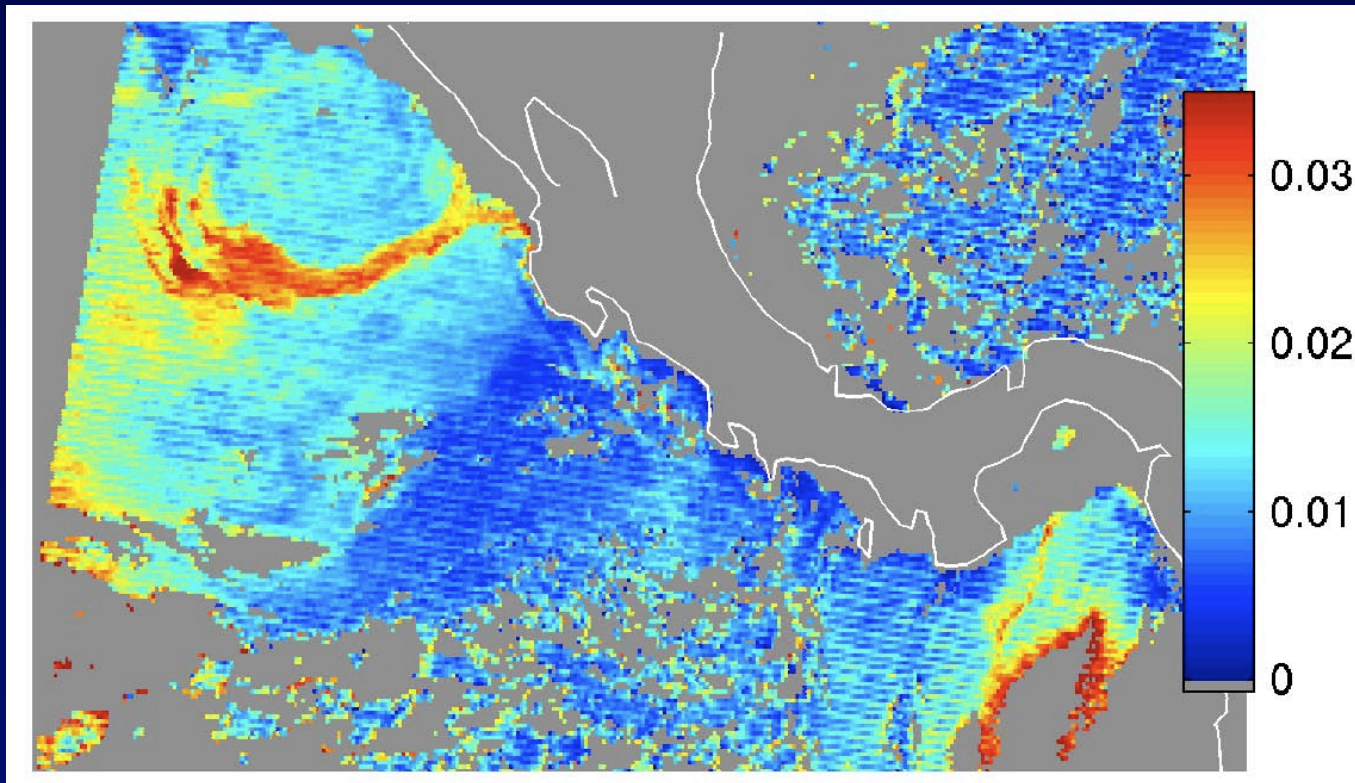
it can sometimes provide reasonable estimates of Chlorophyll (especially when the range of Chl is very large)



But fluorescence yield is highly variable in nature

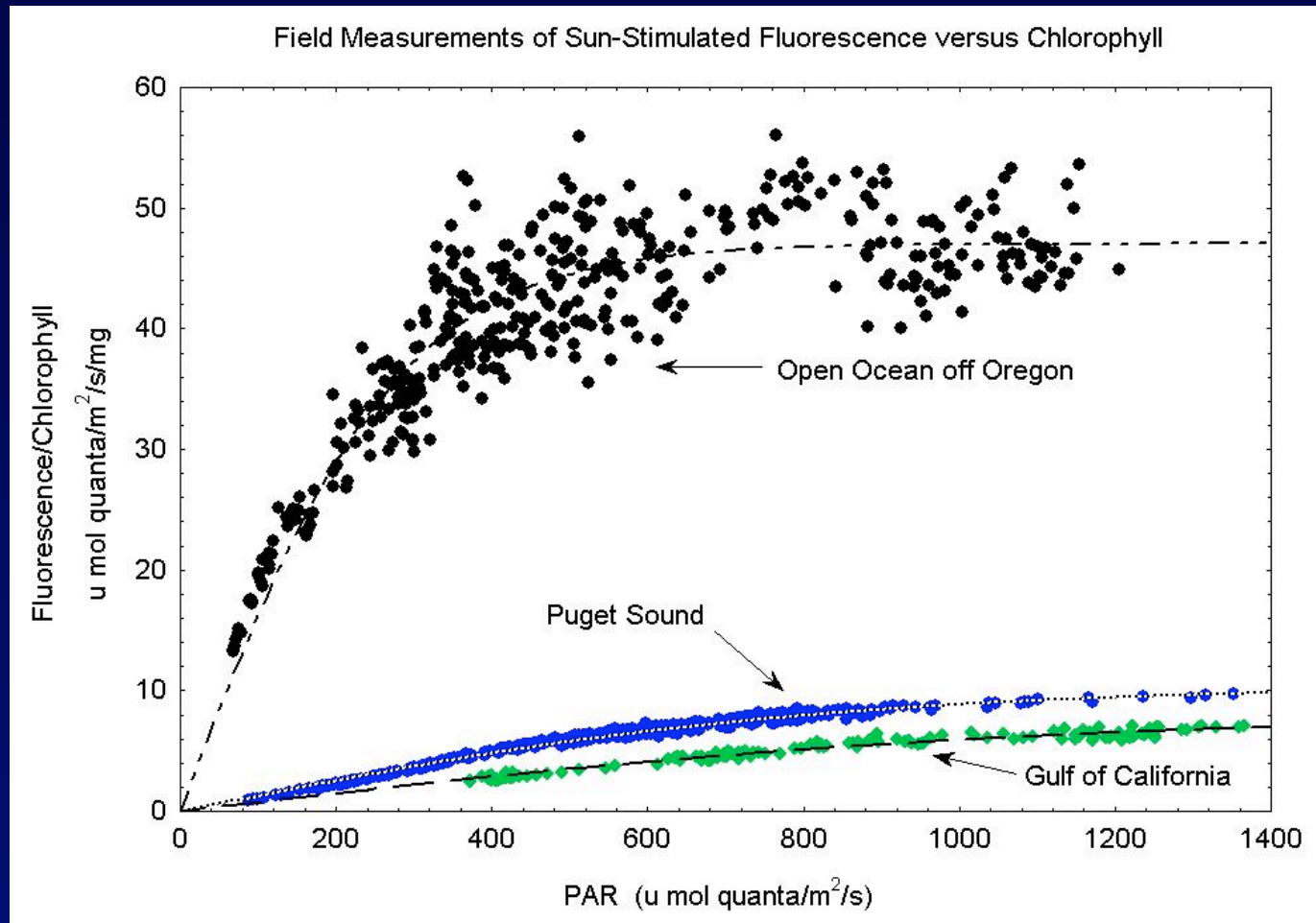


Apparently huge variability of fluorescence yield in nature
(ca. 10x) is clearly tied to environmental forcing



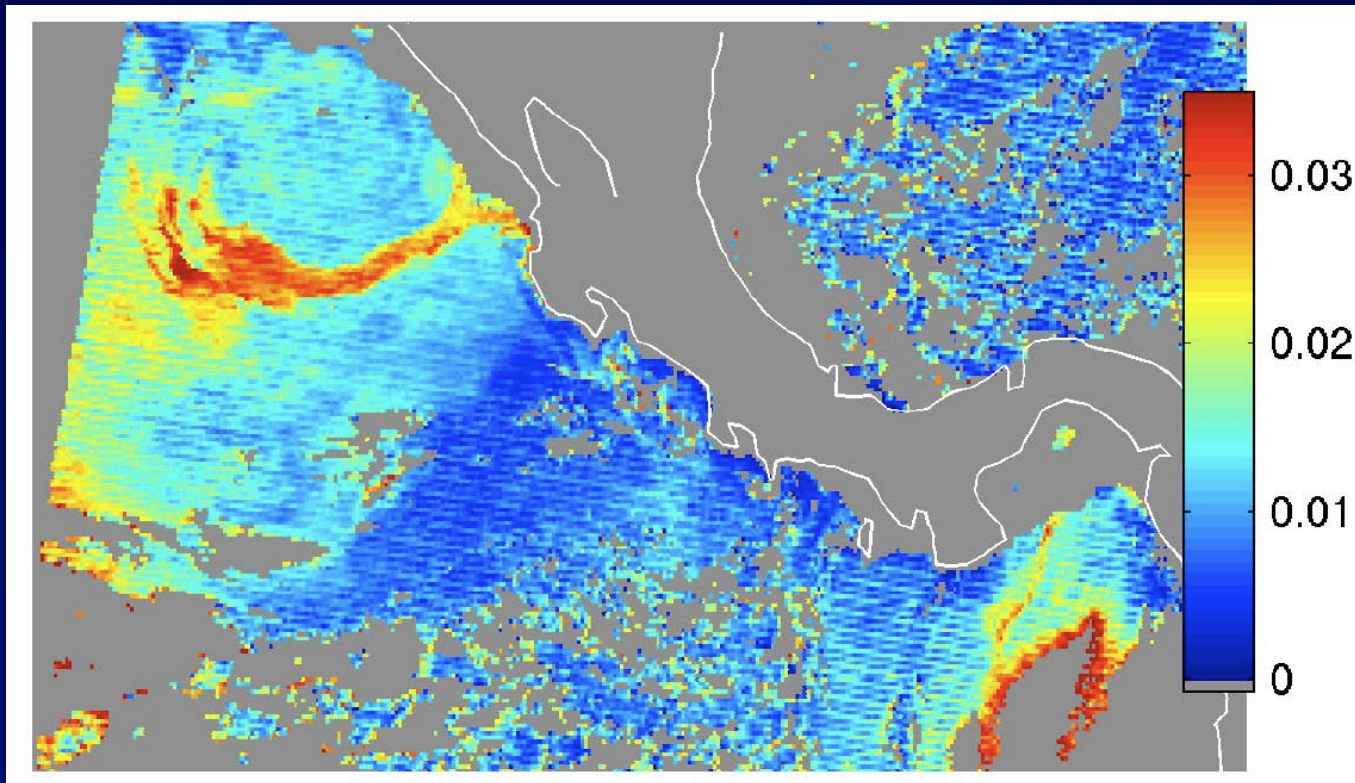
*Estimated fluorescence quantum
yield: Huot et al. 2005
L&O Methods*

Satellites detect fluorescence in full sunlight. *In situ* radiometers can measure F vs E . It also varies greatly!



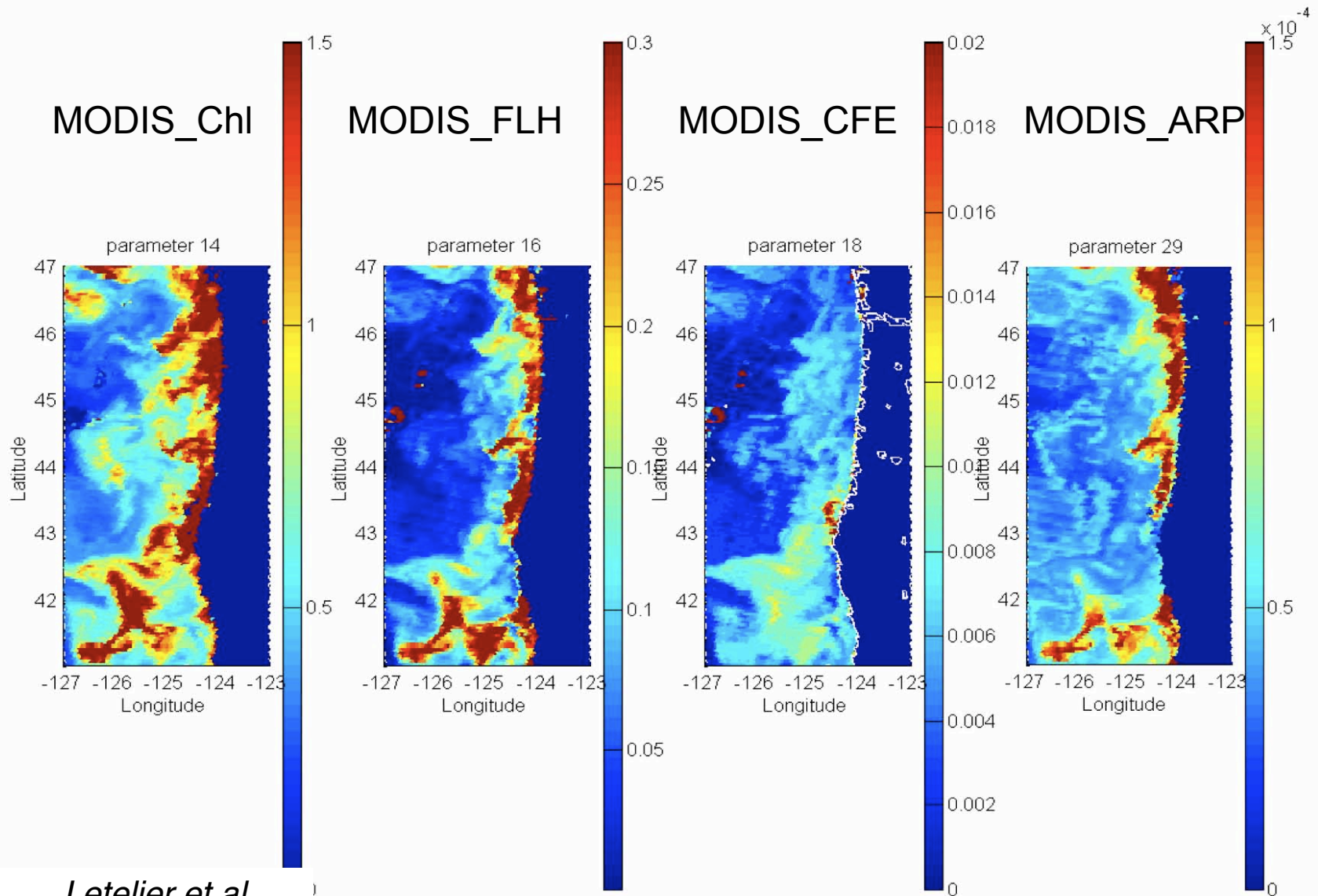
Ricardo Letelier, Mark Abbott, Jasmine Nahorniak
College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences
Oregon State University

This signal should not be ignored!



*Estimated fluorescence quantum
yield: Huot et al. 2005
L&O Methods*

A big goal: Interpreting natural variability of ϕ_f as detected from space



A number of processes must be considered to relate FLH quantitatively and mechanistically to the biomass and physiology of phytoplankton

Recent examples:

Babin et al. (1996)

Ostrawska et al. (1997)

Maritorena and Morel (2000)

Morrison (2003)

Huot et al. (2005)


Laney et al. (2005)

$$FLH = L_{uf}(683, 0^-) =$$

$$\frac{1}{4\pi} \cdot \frac{1}{C_f} \cdot \varphi_f \cdot \overset{\circ}{E}(\text{PAR}, 0^-) \cdot chl \cdot \overline{a_\phi^*} \cdot Q_a^*(683) \cdot [\overline{K_{abs}} + a_f(683)]^{-1}$$

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Correction for backscatter
and Raman scatter



$$FLH = L_{uf}(683, 0^-) =$$

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Volume emission to
upwelling radiance



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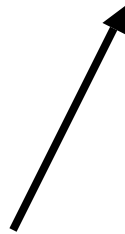
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Full spectral emission to
683 nm

A number of processes must be considered to relate FLH quantitatively and mechanistically to the biomass and physiology of phytoplankton

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Maritorena and Morel (2000)

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Huot et al. (2005)

Laney et al. (2005)

Quantum yield of
fluorescence —
function of E & physiology

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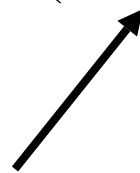
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Incident scalar PAR

A number of processes must be considered to relate FLH quantitatively and mechanistically to the biomass and physiology of phytoplankton

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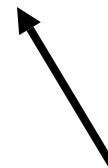
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Chl * irradiance-weighted
specific absorption
coefficient

A number of processes must be considered to relate FLH quantitatively and mechanistically to the biomass and physiology of phytoplankton

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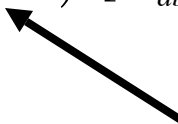
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Internal reabsorption of
fluoresced photons



A number of processes must be considered to relate FLH quantitatively and mechanistically to the biomass and physiology of phytoplankton

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Attenuation of
downwelling absorbed
radiation



A number of processes must be considered to relate FLH quantitatively and mechanistically to the biomass and physiology of phytoplankton

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Ostrawska et al. (1997)

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Attenuation of upwelling
fluoresced radiation



A number of processes must be considered to relate FLH quantitatively and mechanistically to the biomass and physiology of phytoplankton

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It's not really all that bad, and it's needed to retrieve physiological variables

Recent examples:

Babin et al. (1996)

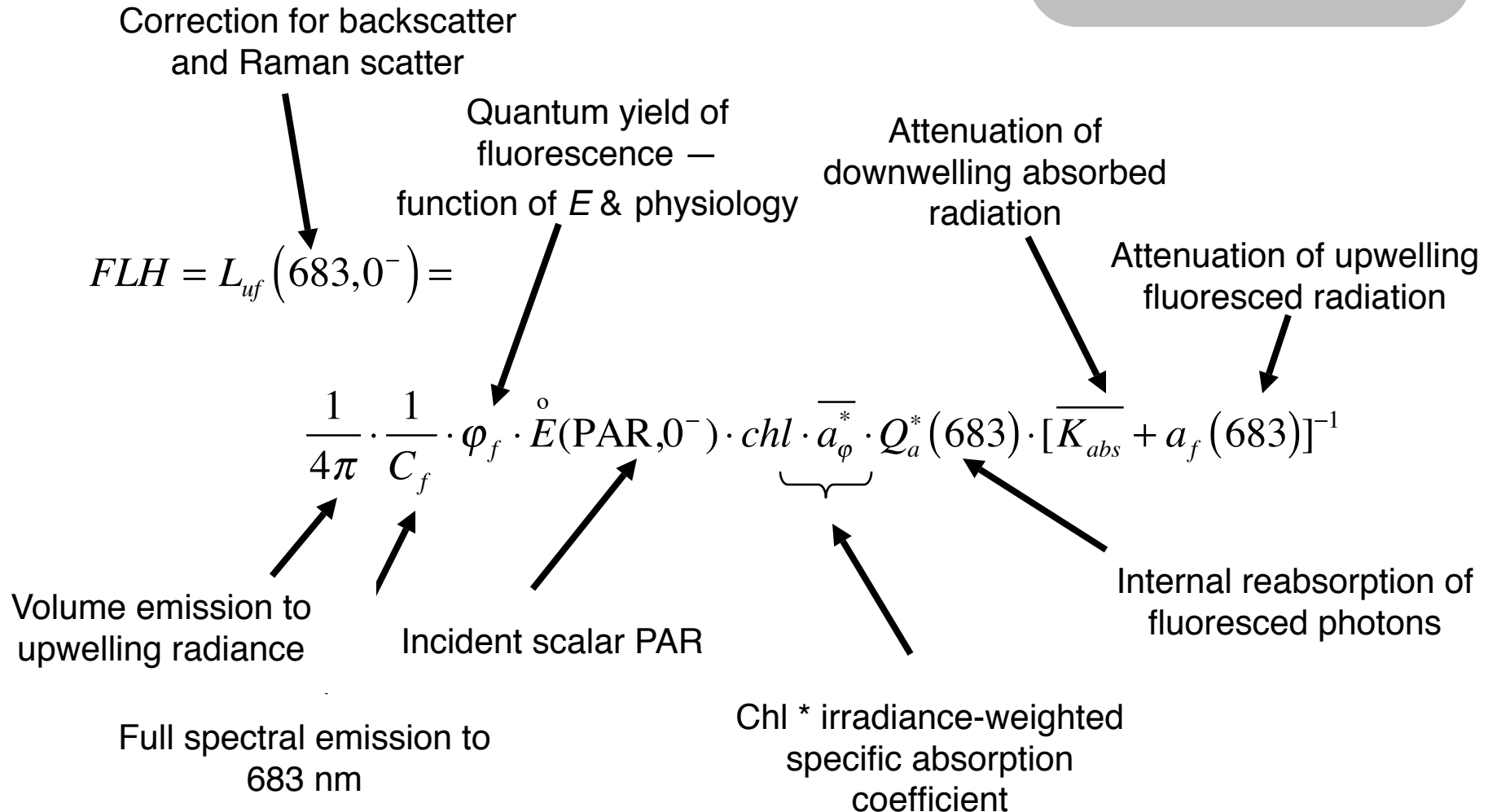
Ostrawska et al. (1997)

Maritorena and Morel (2000)

Morrison (2003)

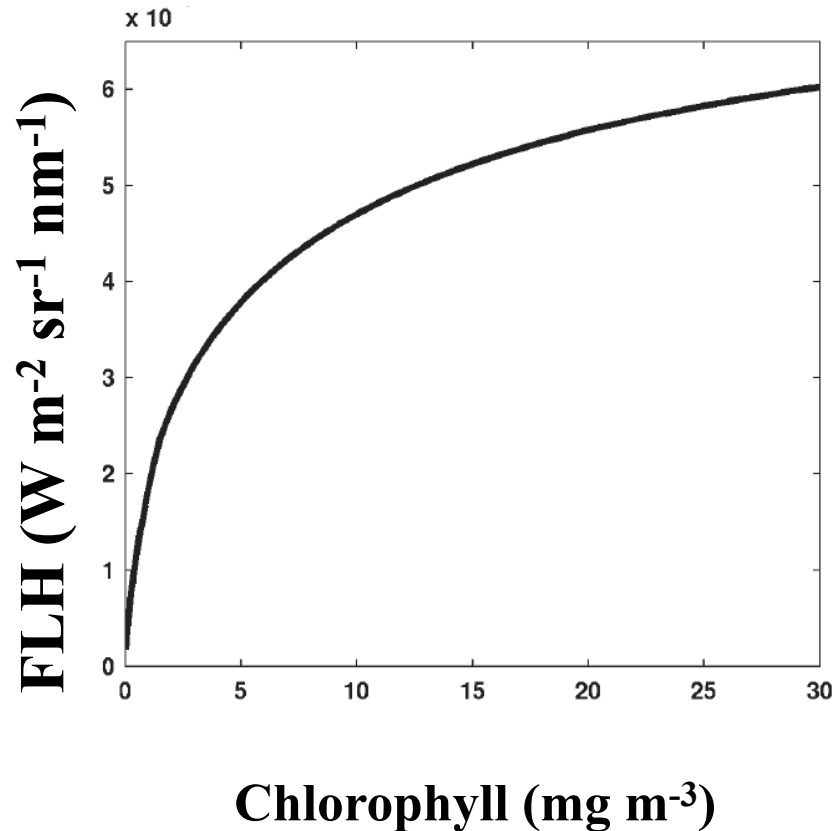
Huot et al. (2005)

Laney et al. (2005)



These all contribute to the observed nonlinear relationships between FLH and Chlorophyll

Huot et al. 2005 model predicted relationship
with *constant quantum yield and surface irradiance*



See Babin et al. 1996; Gower et al. 2004

Roots in papers by Morel and Prieur 1977, Neville and Gower (1977), Gordon (1979)

But ϕ_f varies — a lot

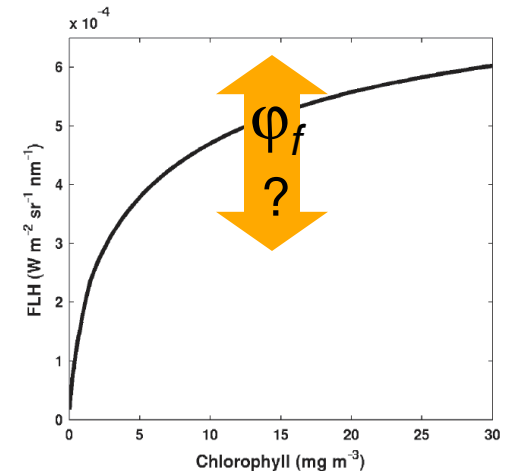
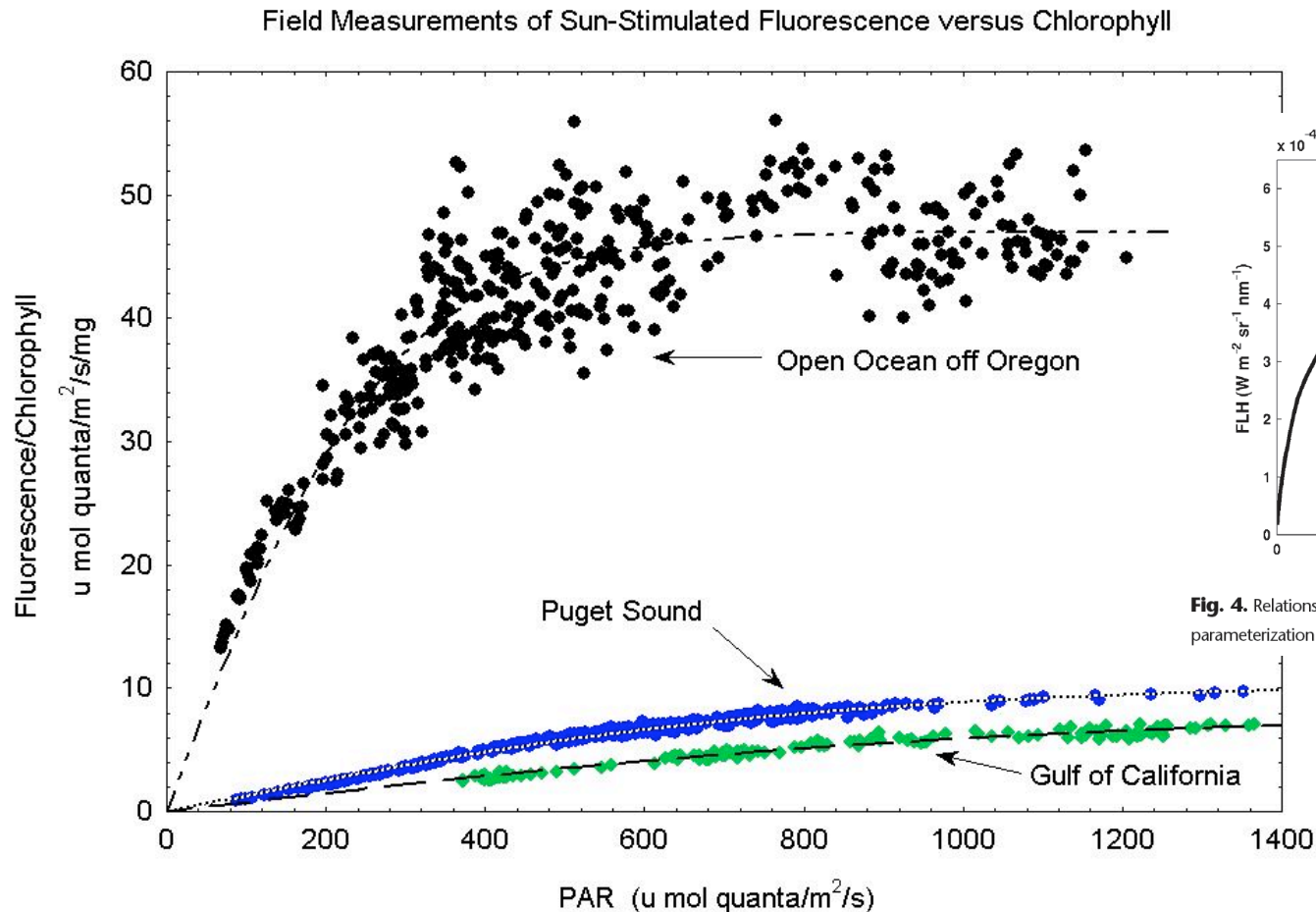
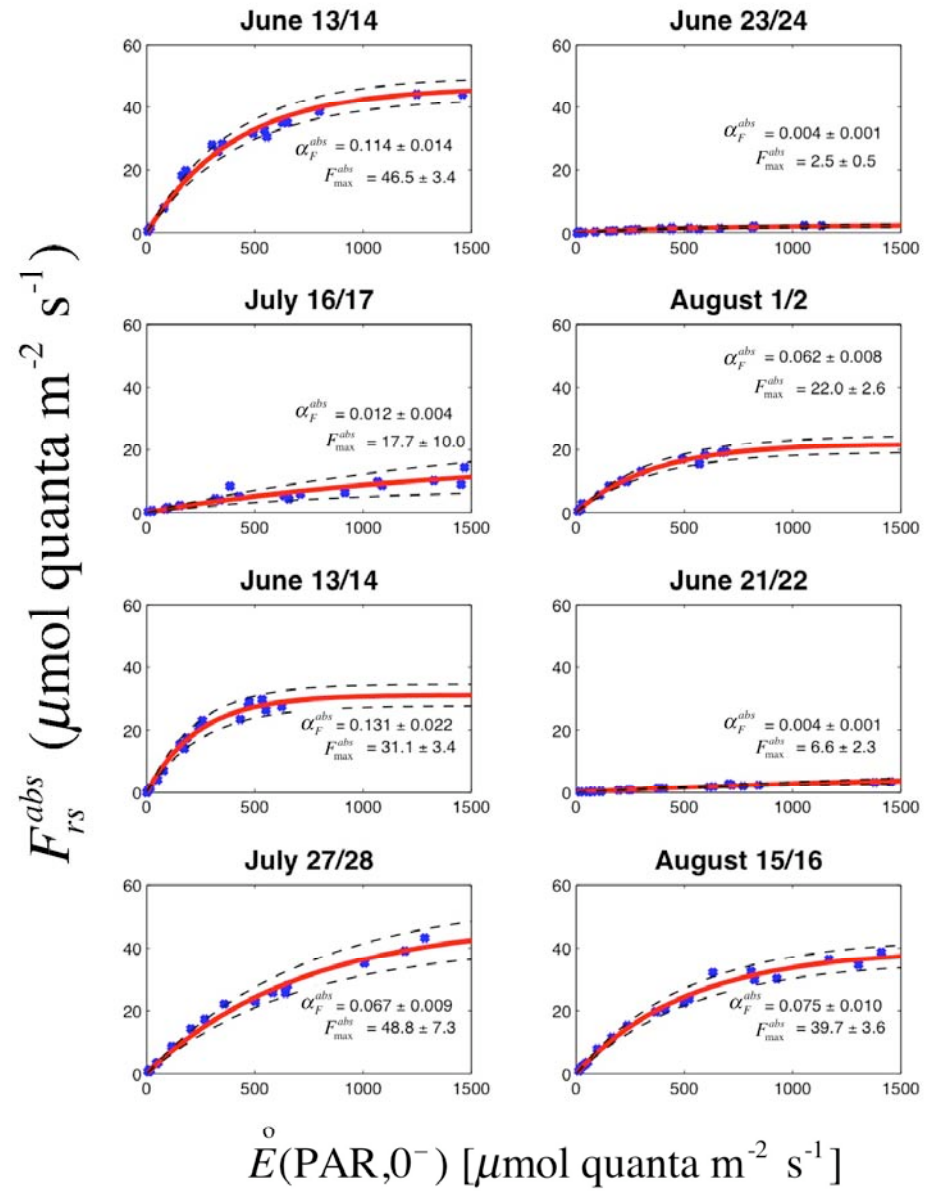


Fig. 4. Relationship between the FLH and chlorophyll concentration with our parameterization (see Eq. 20) using $\phi_{01} = 0.012$ and $\bar{E}_{PAR} = 1750 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$.

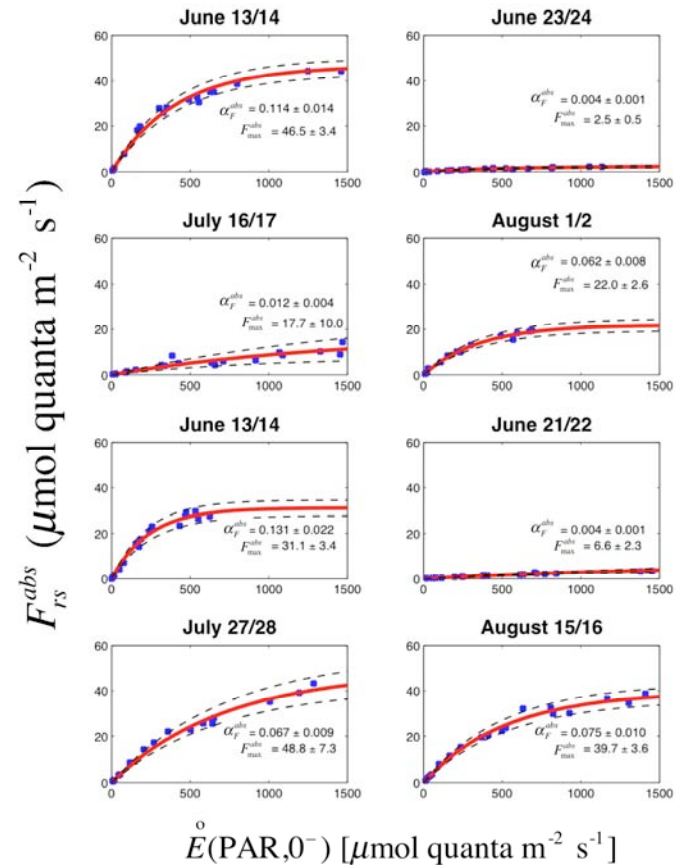
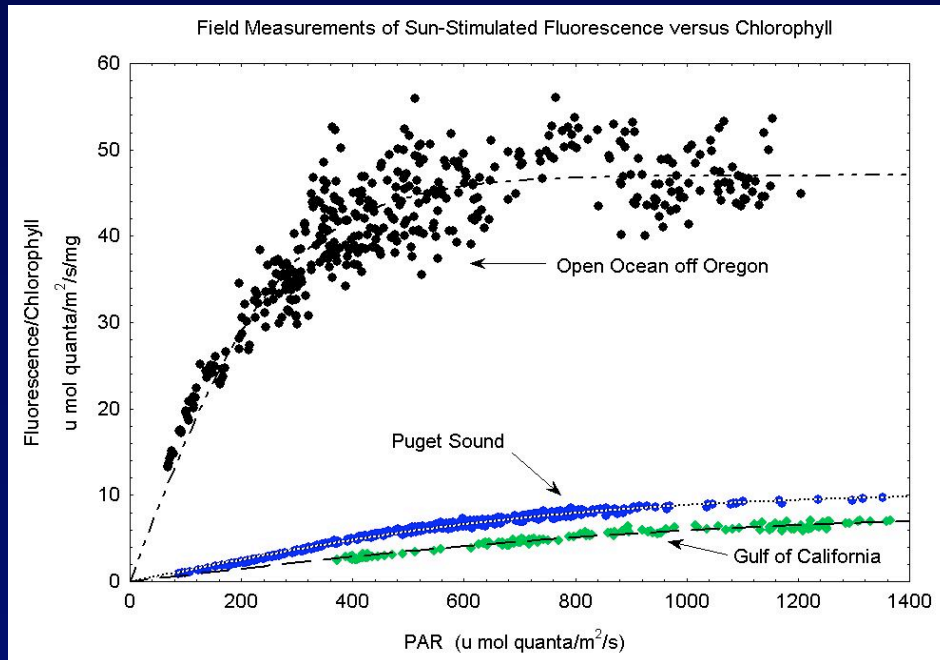
...we observed
the same kind of
variability in the
Bering Sea



Data from optical drifters

Schallenberg et al., submitted (JGR Oceans)

Goal: Explain this kind of variability in fluorescence yield in terms of ϕ_f and the optical properties of phytoplankton and the water



Approach

Approach

- Retrieve fluorescence normalized to absorbed radiation (F^{abs}) and surface irradiance, E

Approach

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Approach

- Retrieve fluorescence normalized to absorbed radiation (F^{abs}) and surface irradiance, E
- Ascribe variation of F^{abs} vs E to natural variability of ϕ_f vs E

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- Relate inferred variability of ϕ_f vs E to phytoplankton physiology

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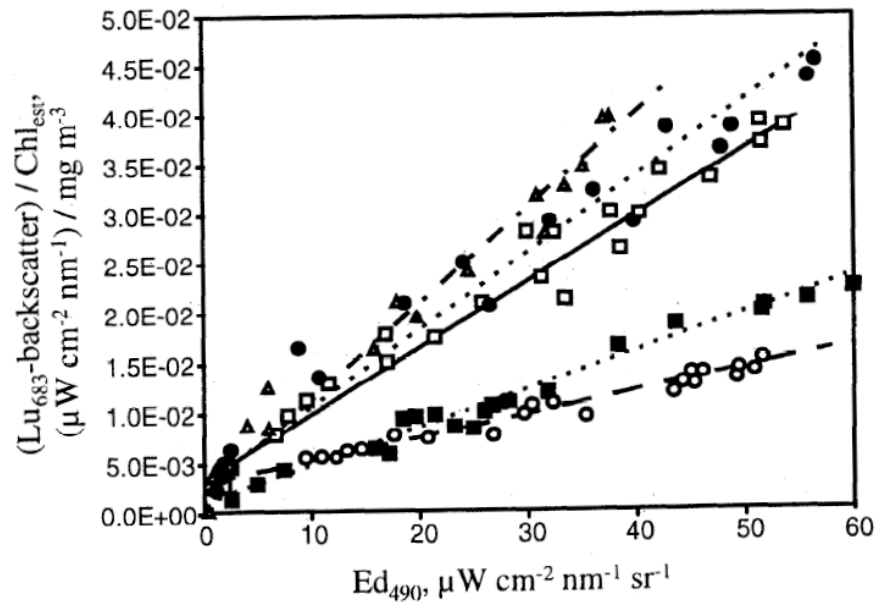
Approach

- Retrieve fluorescence normalized to absorbed radiation (F^{abs}) and surface irradiance, E
- Ascribe variation of F^{abs} vs E to natural variability of ϕ_f vs E
- Relate inferred variability of ϕ_f vs E to phytoplankton physiology
- Relate physiological status to environmental factors

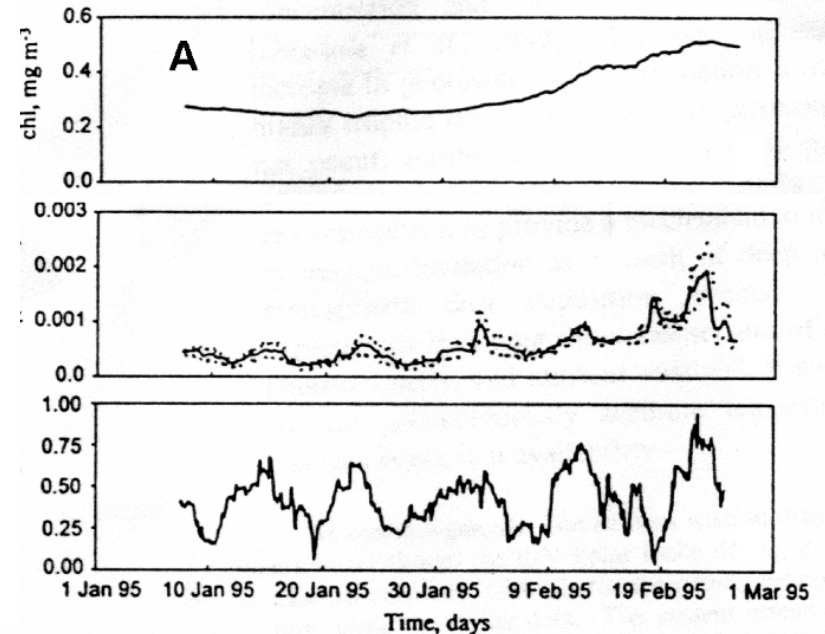
The working hypothesis from the drifter studies was that high fluorescence yield corresponds to nutrient stressed assemblages

Chlorophyll natural fluorescence response to upwelling events in the Southern Ocean

Letelier et al. 1997, GRL



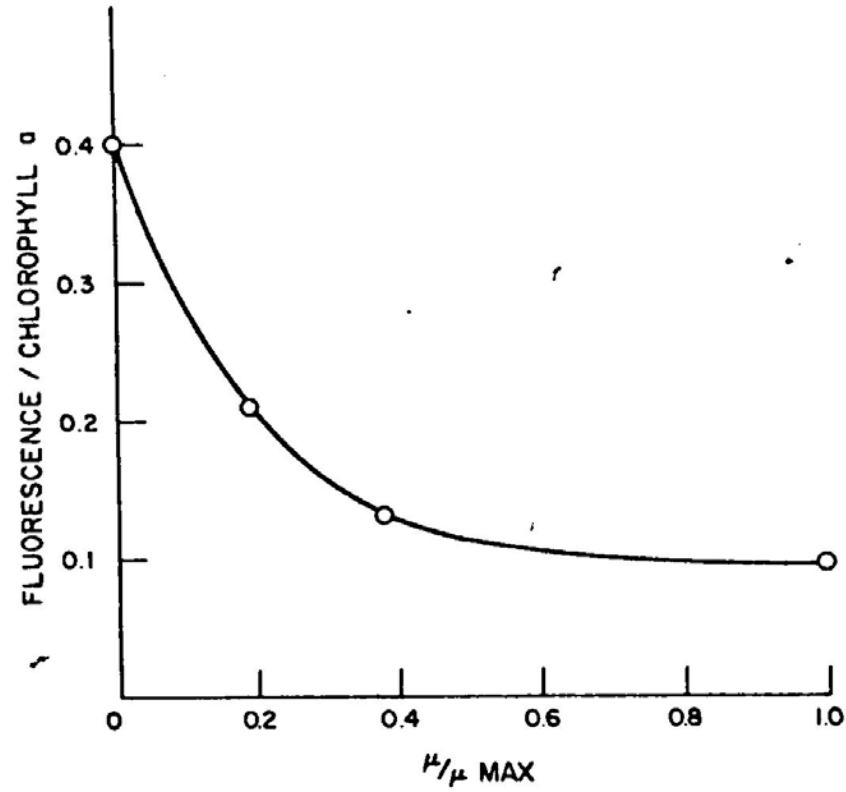
FLH/Chl vs E slope varied,
reflecting variation in ϕ_f



ϕ_f covaried with inferred
upwelling: high nutrient input
- low fluorescence yield

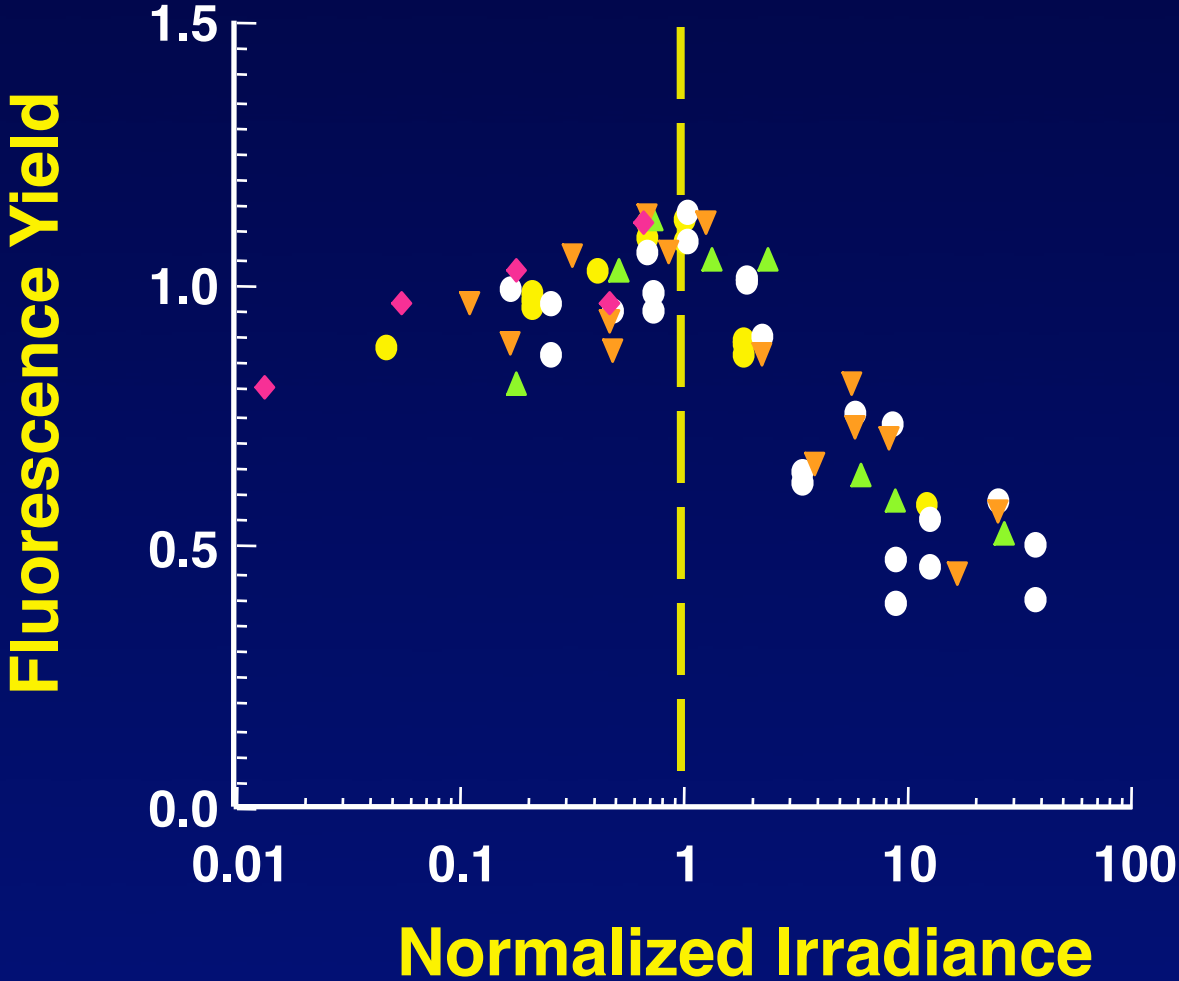
The underlying model

DECREASING PHOTOCHEMICAL QUENCHING →



← INCREASING NUTRIENT STRESS

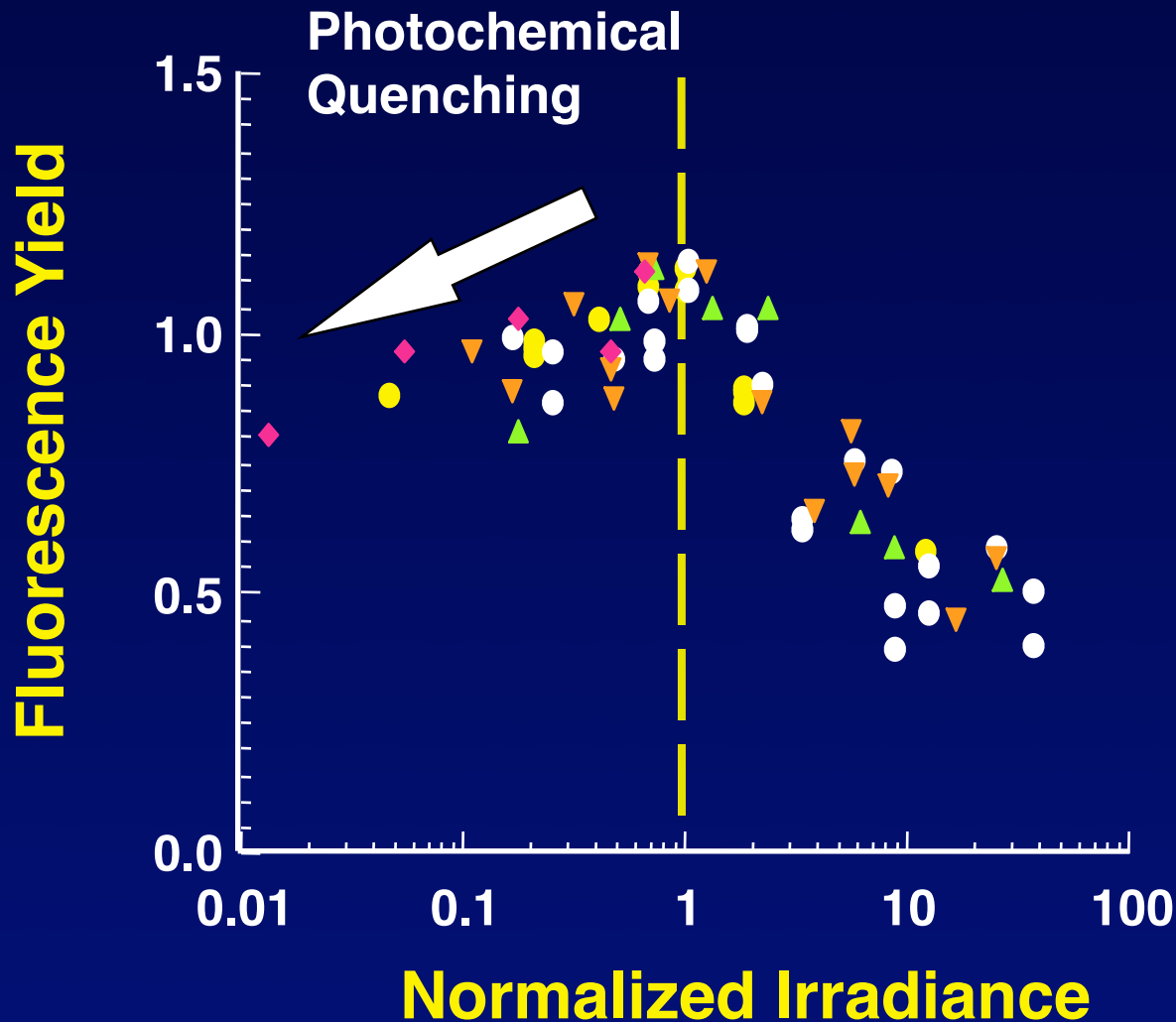
But nonphotochemical quenching was recognized as a factor:



Each data set is normalized to a different irradiance of maximal fluorescence yield

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Photosynthesis decreases ϕ_f (subsaturating irradiance)



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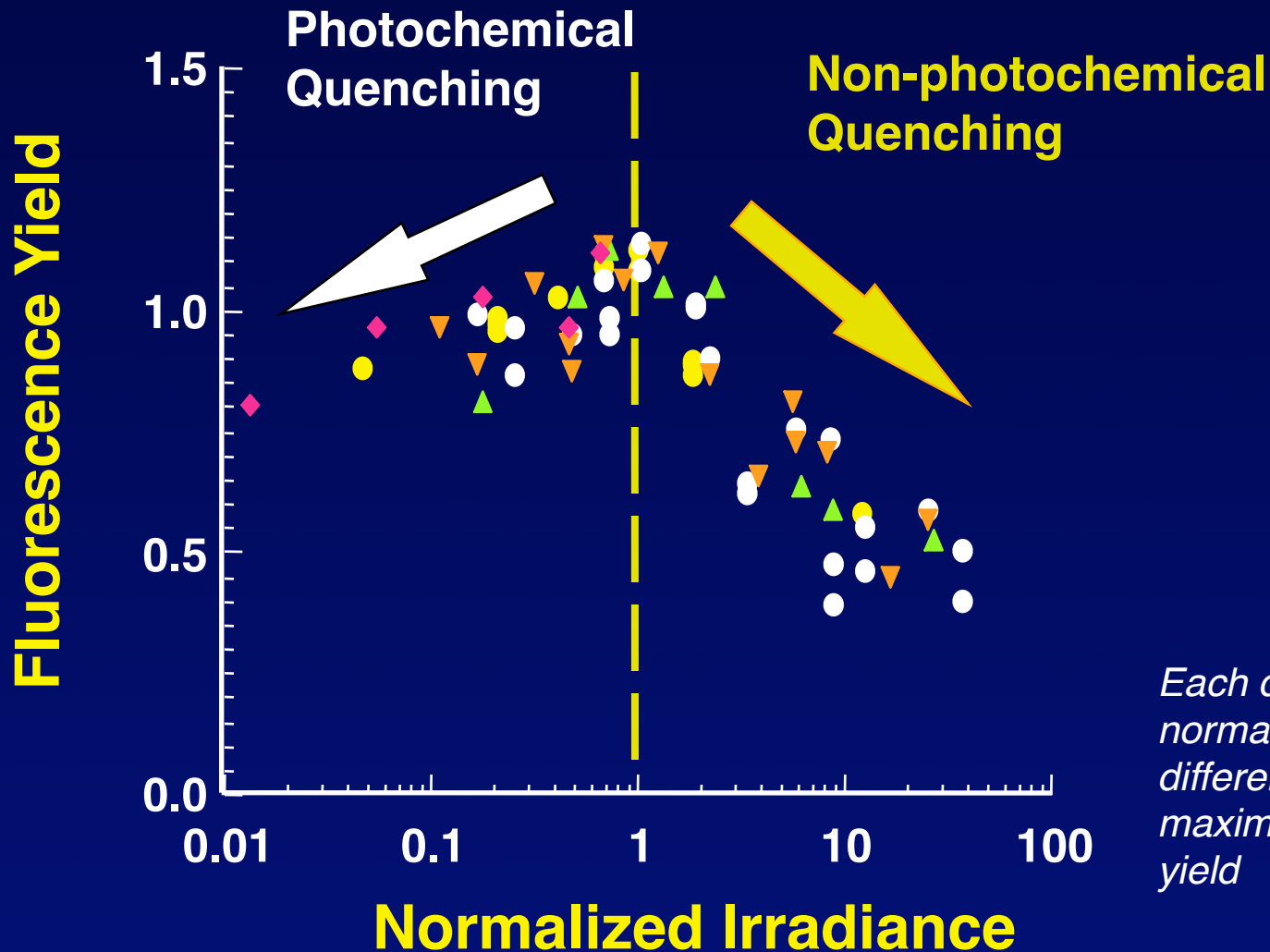
Cullen, J.J., Á.M. Ciotti, R.F. Davis and P.J. Neale. 1997. The relationship between near-surface chlorophyll and solar-stimulated fluorescence: biological effects. In: Ocean Optics XIII, S.G. Ackleson and R. Frouin, eds. Proc. SPIE 2963: 272-277.

John Cullen – Agouron – 2008

But nonphotochemical quenching was recognized as a factor:

Photosynthesis decreases ϕ_f (subsaturating irradiance)

Heat dissipation decreases ϕ_f (supersaturating irradiance)



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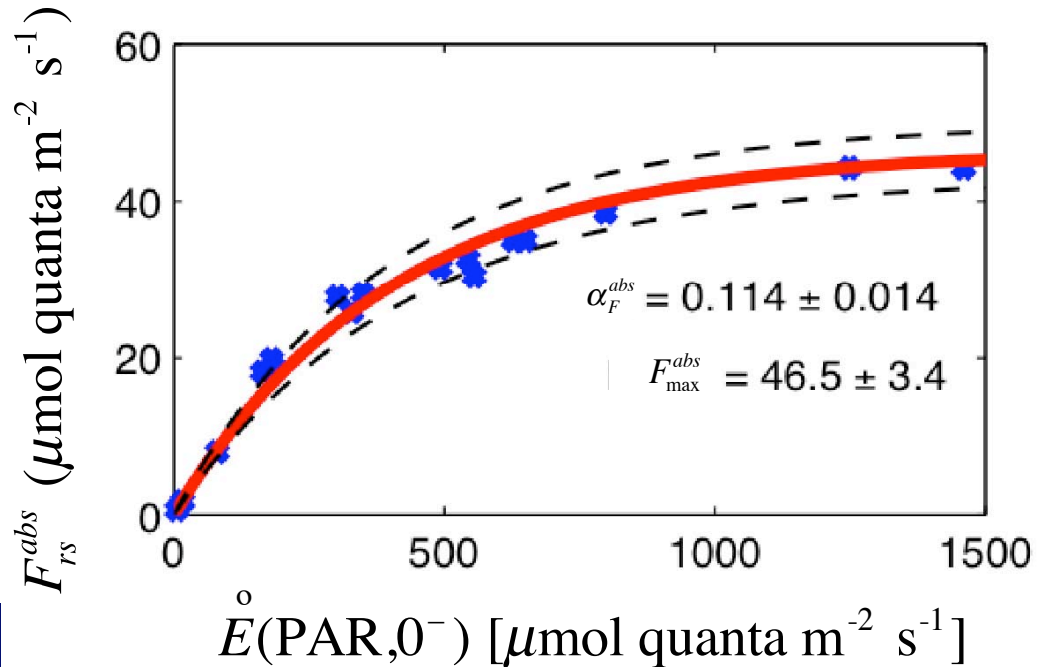
Moving beyond FLH:

Direct estimation of quantum yield vs irradiance relationship

$$F_{rs}^{abs} = \frac{(L_u(683) - L_{ub}(683)) \cdot 4\pi \cdot C_f}{chl_{rs} \cdot \bar{a}_\phi^*(chl_{rs}) \cdot Q_a^*(chl_{rs})} \cdot [\bar{K}_{abs}(chl_{rs}) + \kappa_f(chl_{rs})]$$

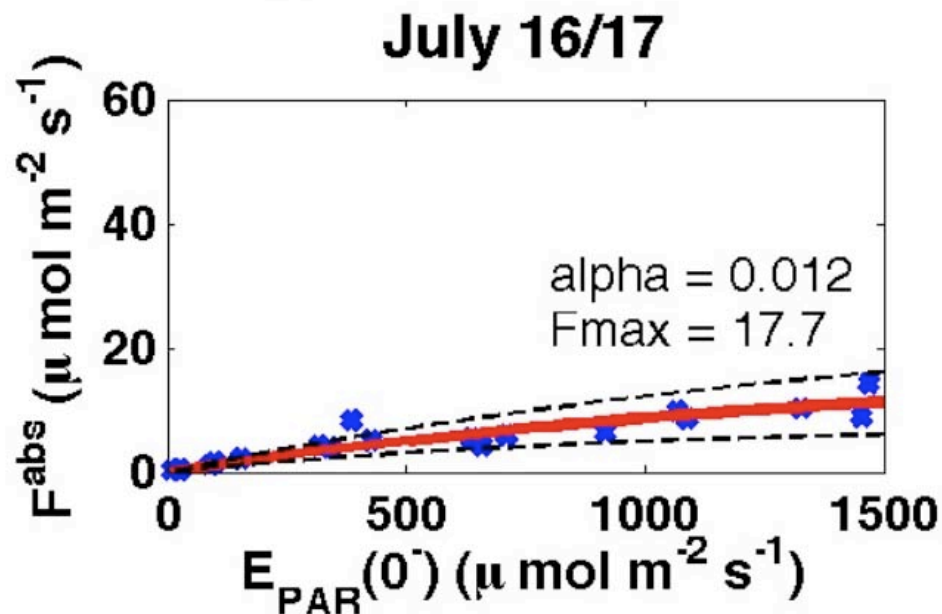
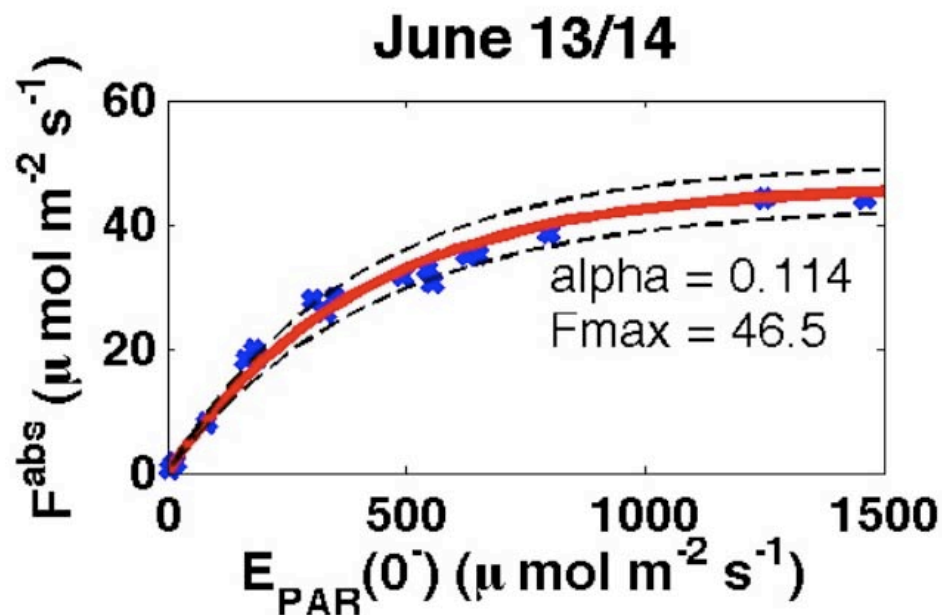
Optical drifter in the
Bering Sea:
quantum yield is

$$F_{rs}^{abs} / \overset{\circ}{E}(\text{PAR}, 0^-)$$



Results from the Bering Sea

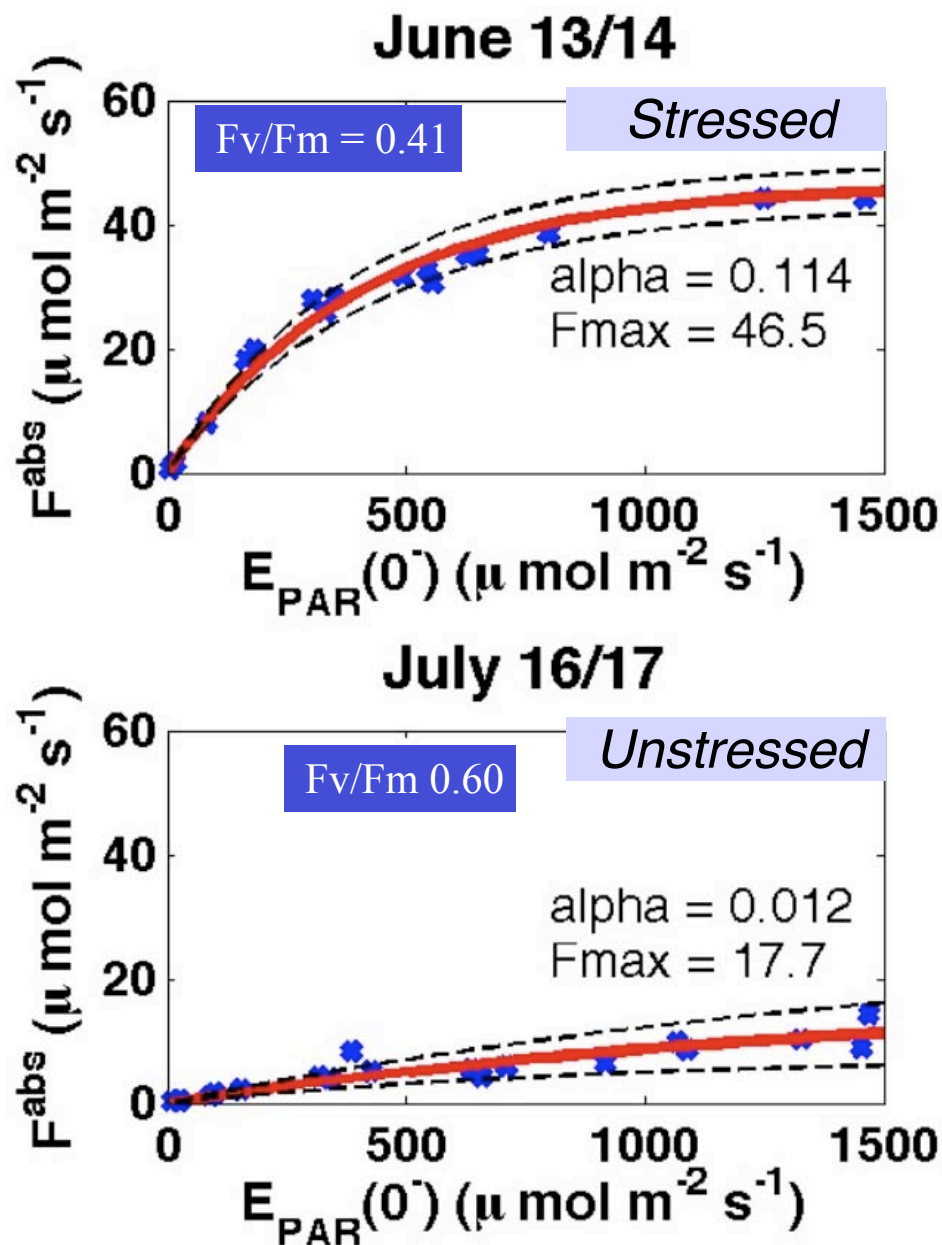
Conclusion is the
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Results from the Bering Sea

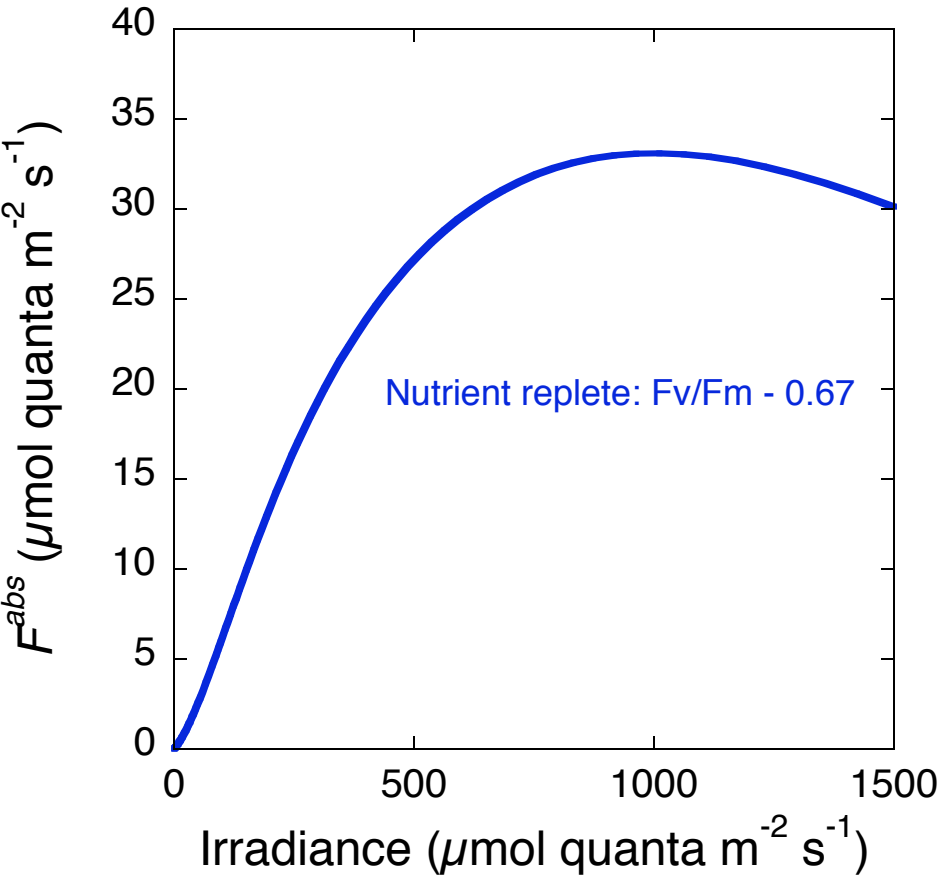
Conclusion is the same: large variation, with high fluorescence yield associated with nutrient stress.

Backed up with direct measures of photosynthetic efficiency, F_v/F_m



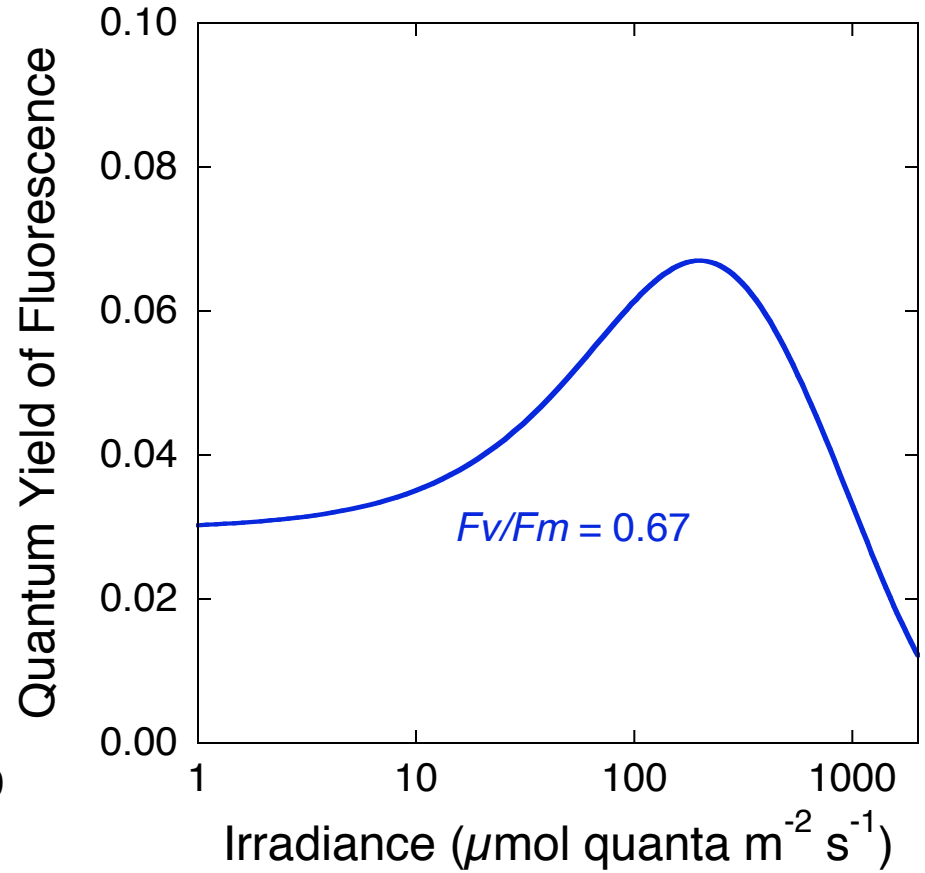
What is the effect of nutrient stress on F vs E in this system?

Fluorescence



Schallenberg et al. 2008, JGR Oceans

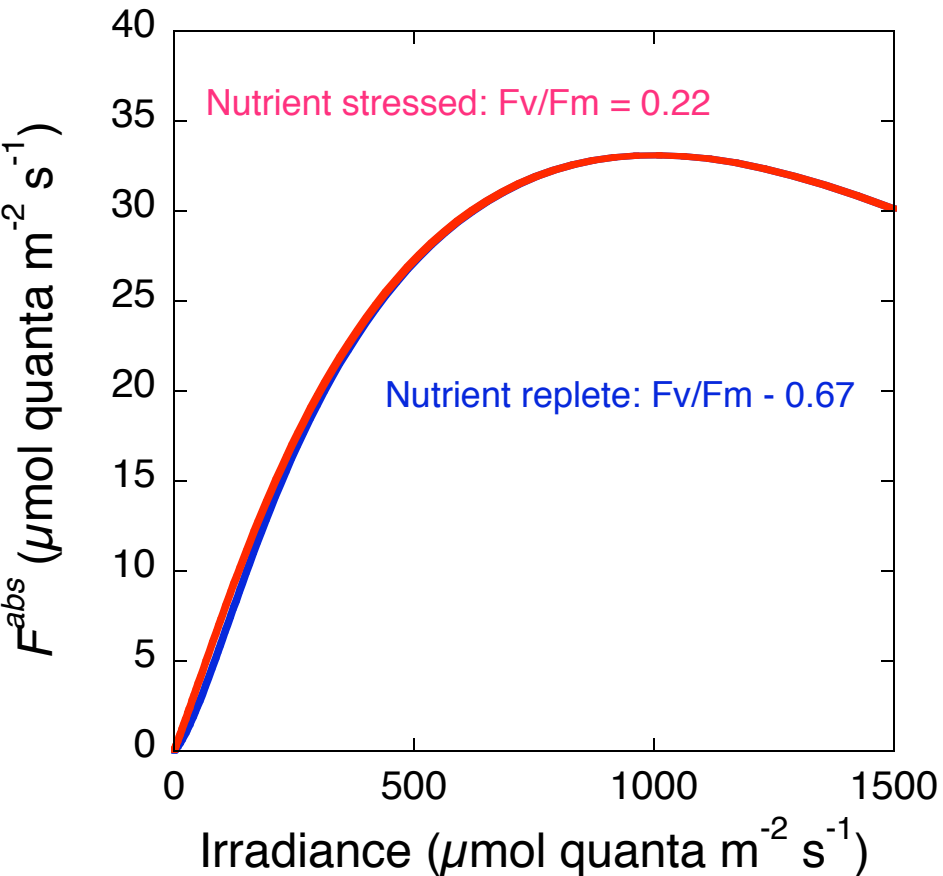
Fluorescence Yield



Analysis after Morrison (2003) L&O

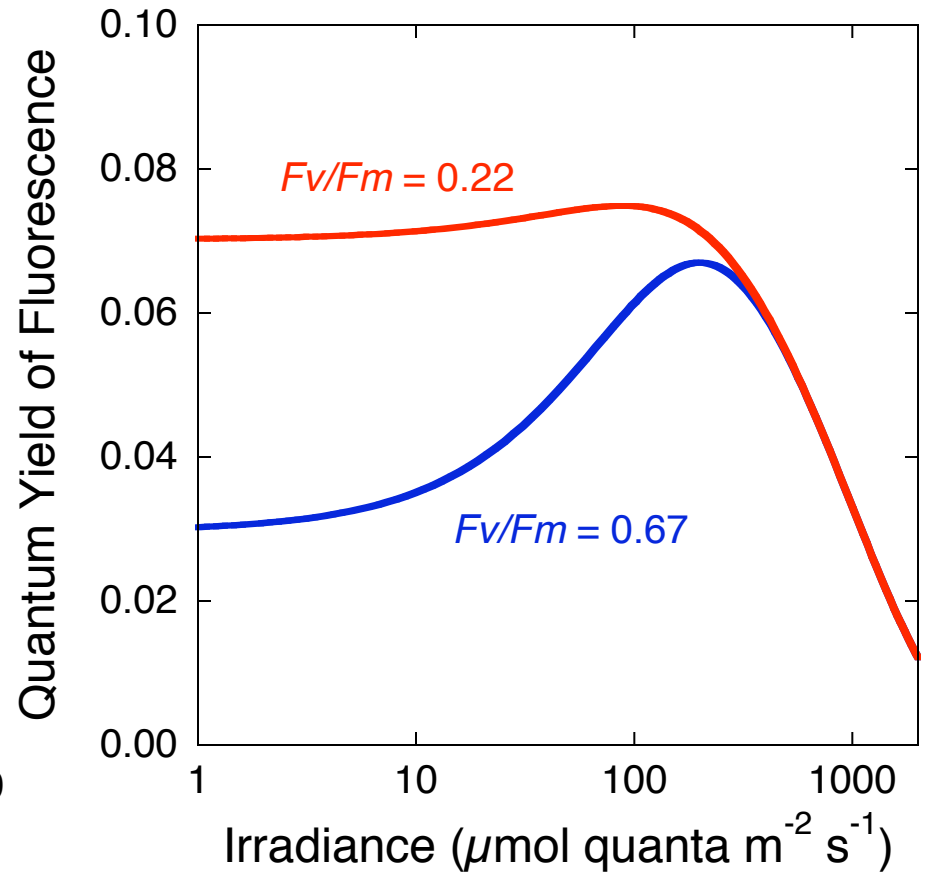
Not much!
(considering only photochemical quenching)

Fluorescence



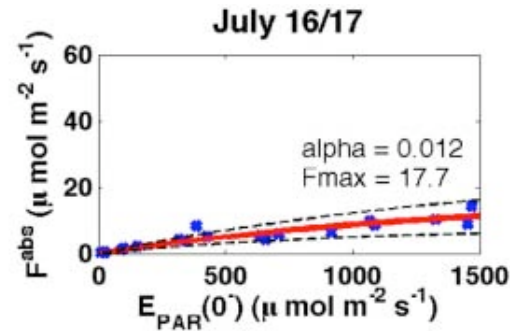
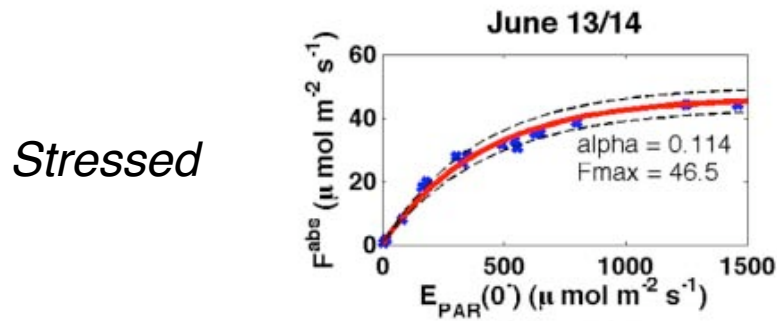
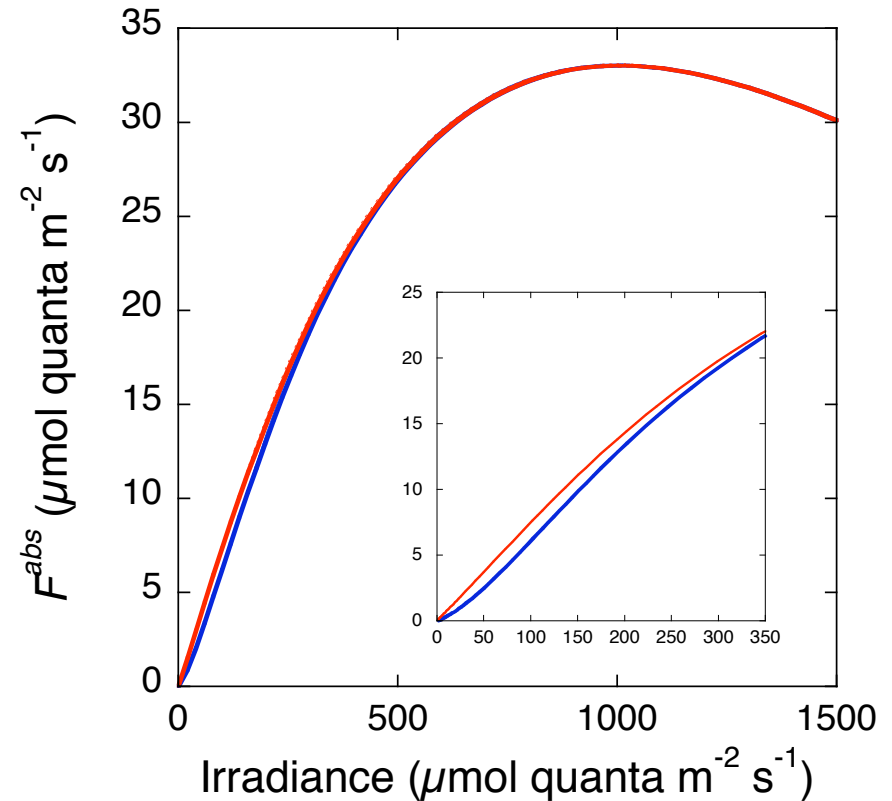
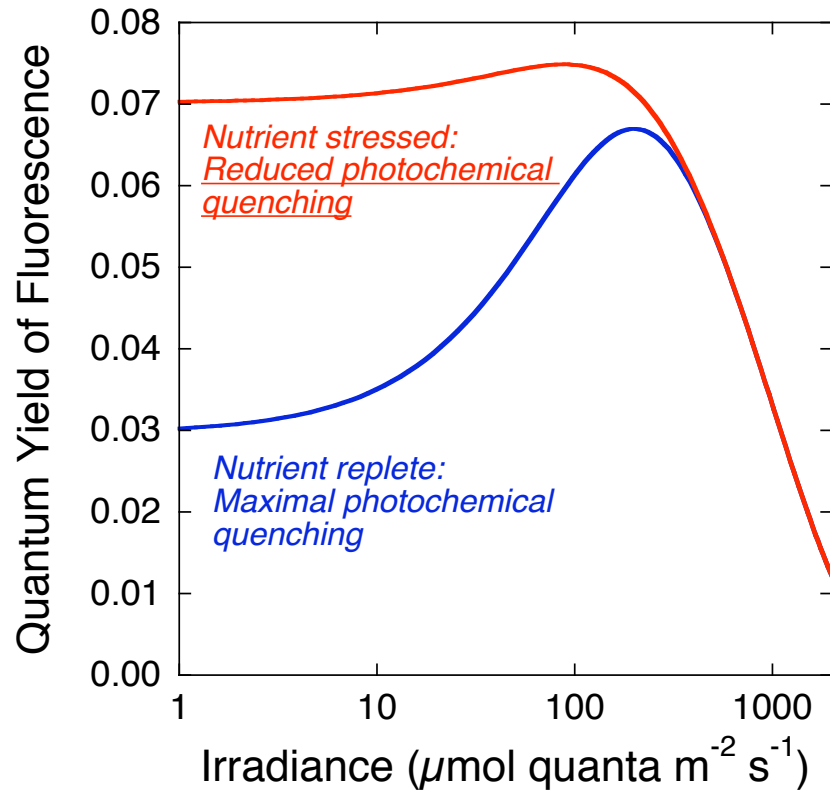
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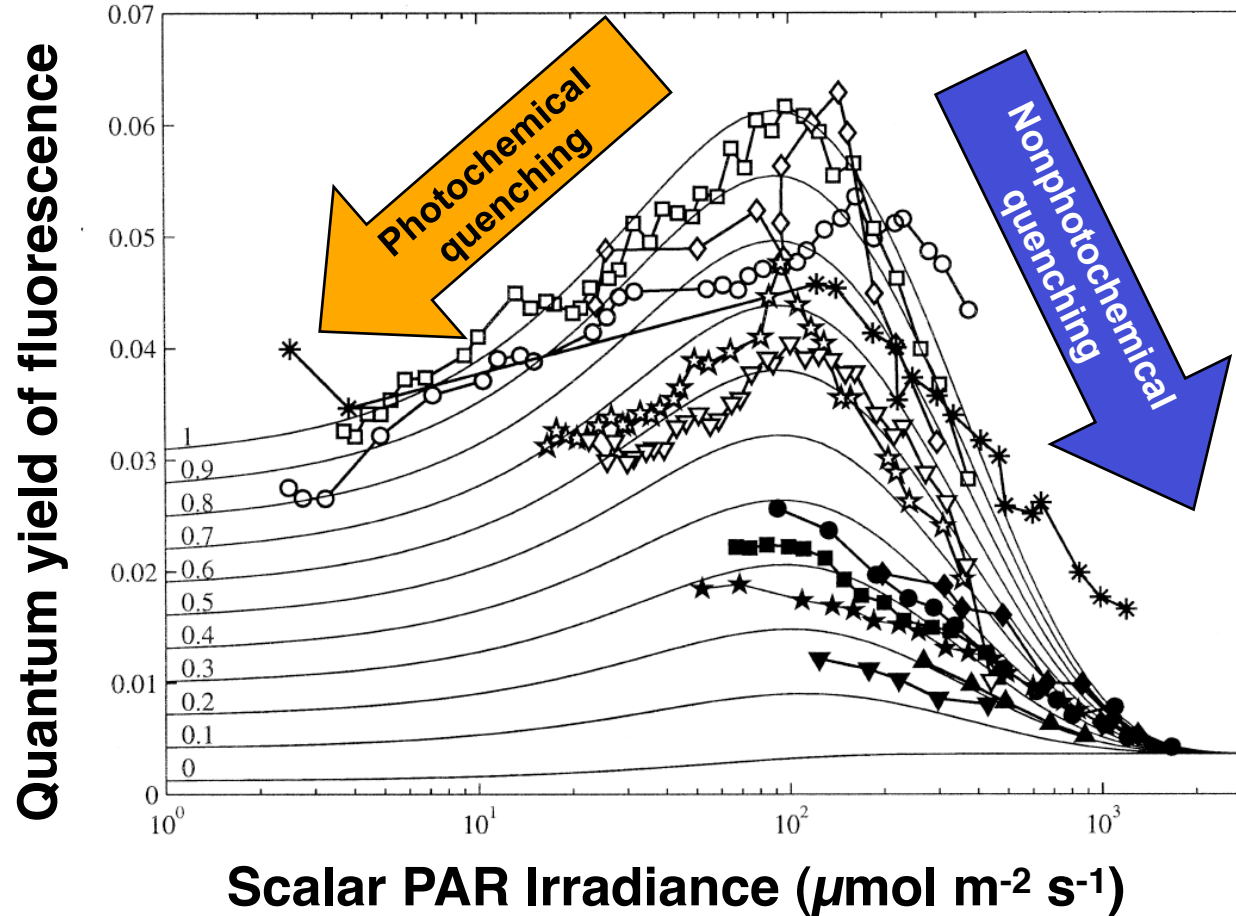
Big differences in near-surface sun-induced fluorescence yield are not due to effects of nutrition on photochemical quenching



Unstressed

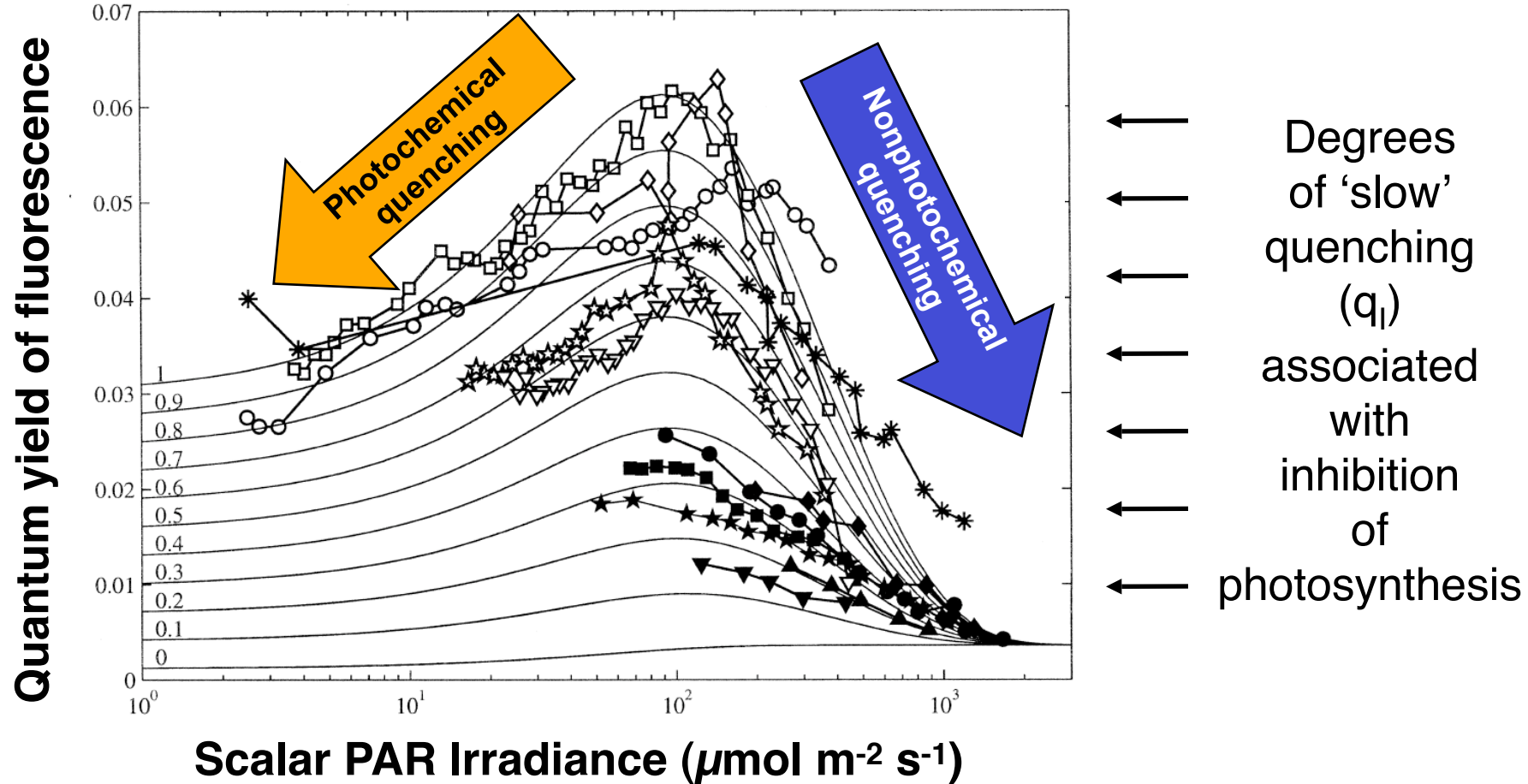
Morrison (2003, L&O):

A third process must be considered: q_i



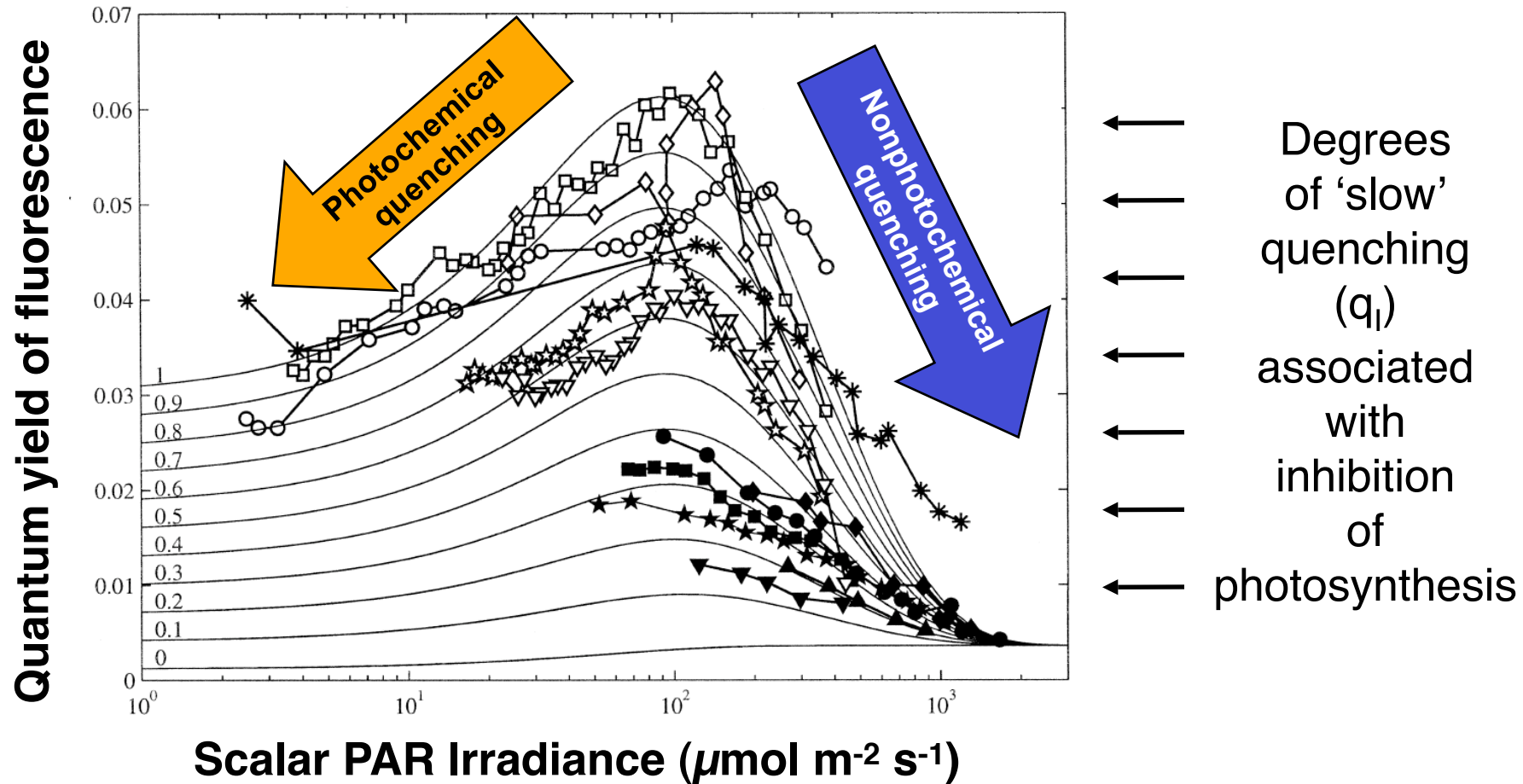
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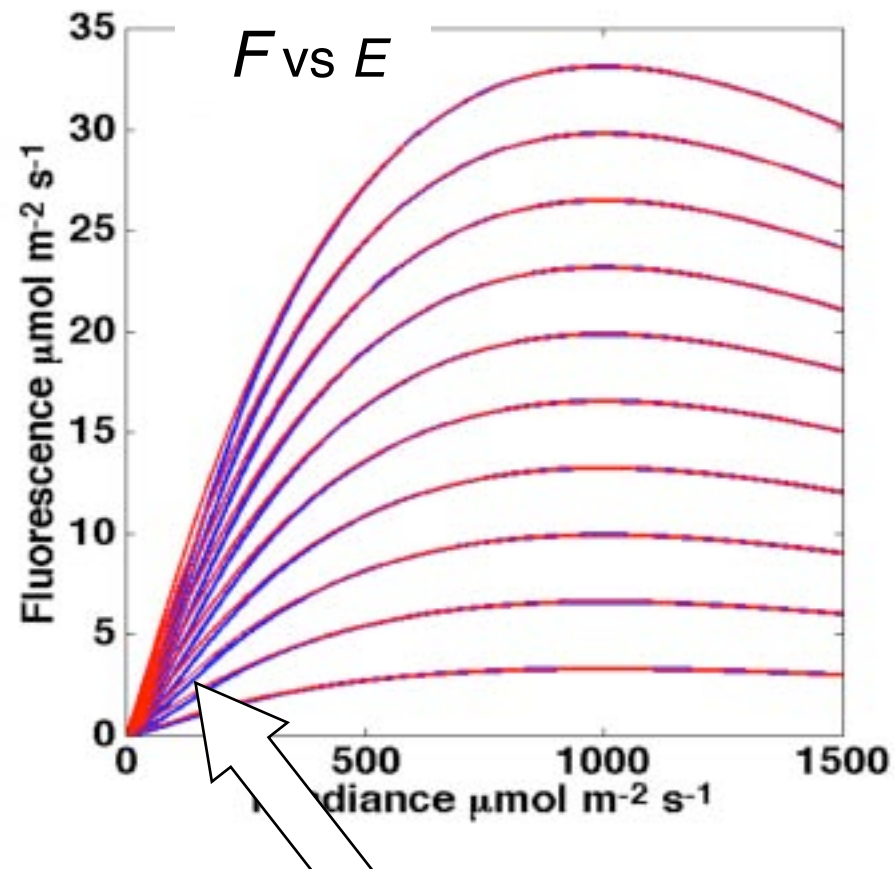
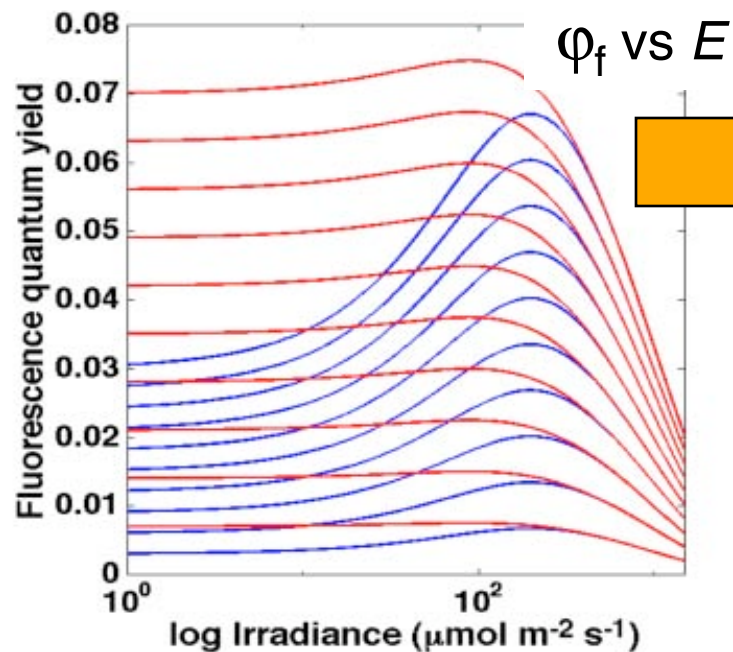
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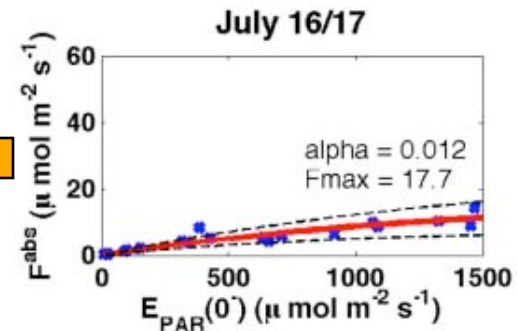
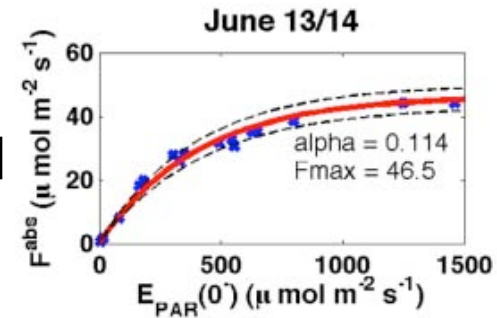
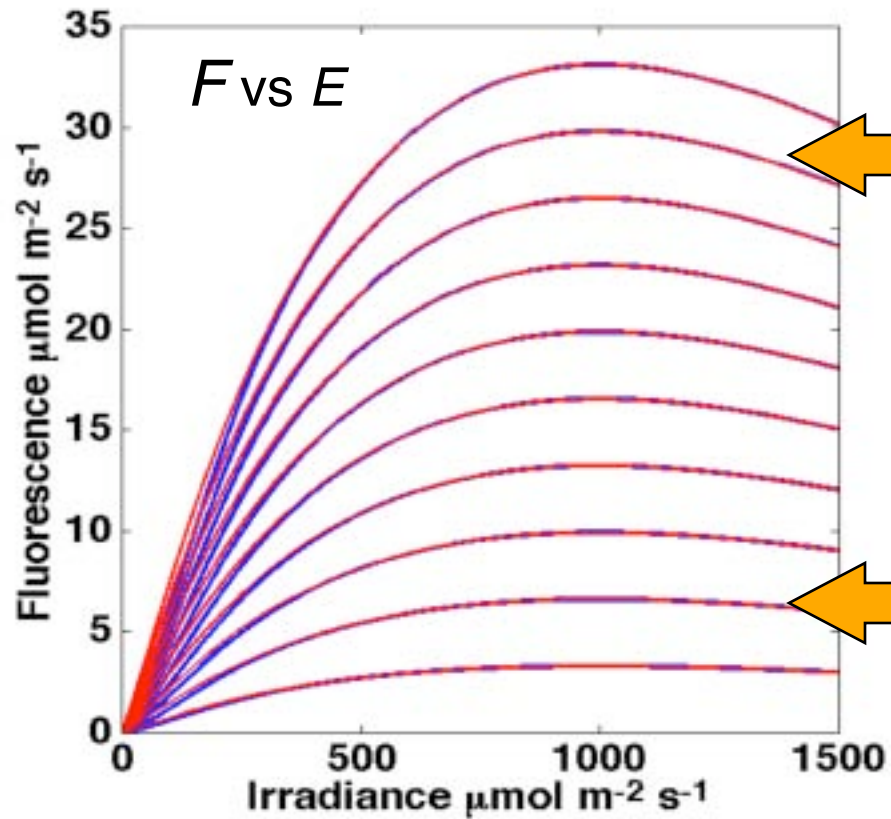
This quenching leads to reduced photosynthetic efficiency in low light

Inference: Variability in surface F vs E is dominated by nonphotochemical quenching (NPQ), not effects of nutrition on photochemical quenching

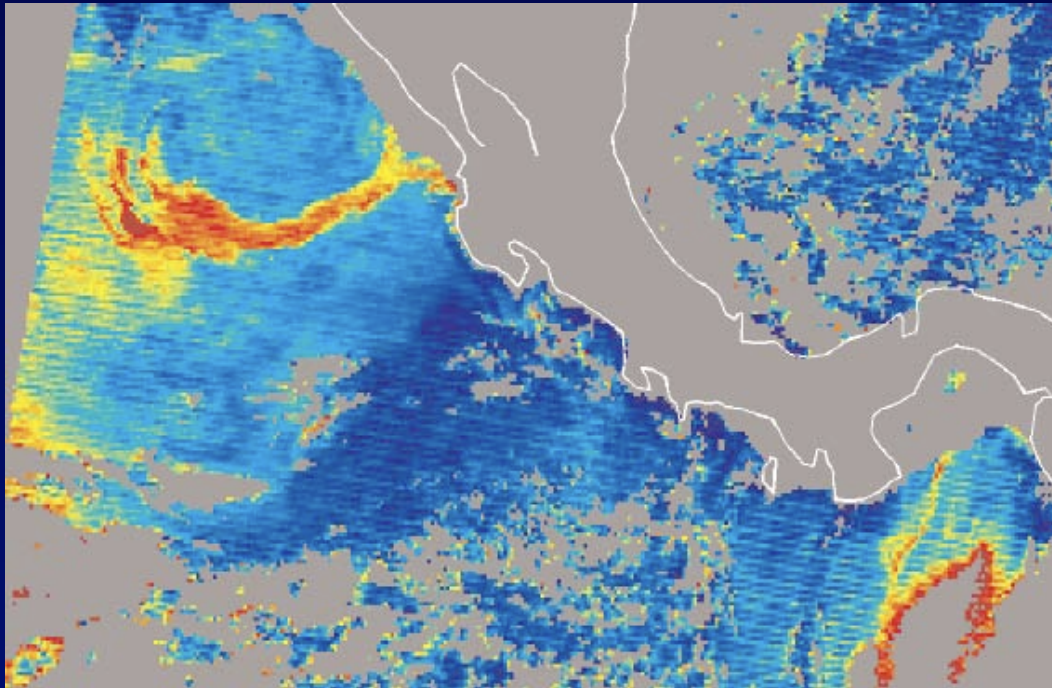


Competition between photosynthesis and fluorescence affects only this curvature

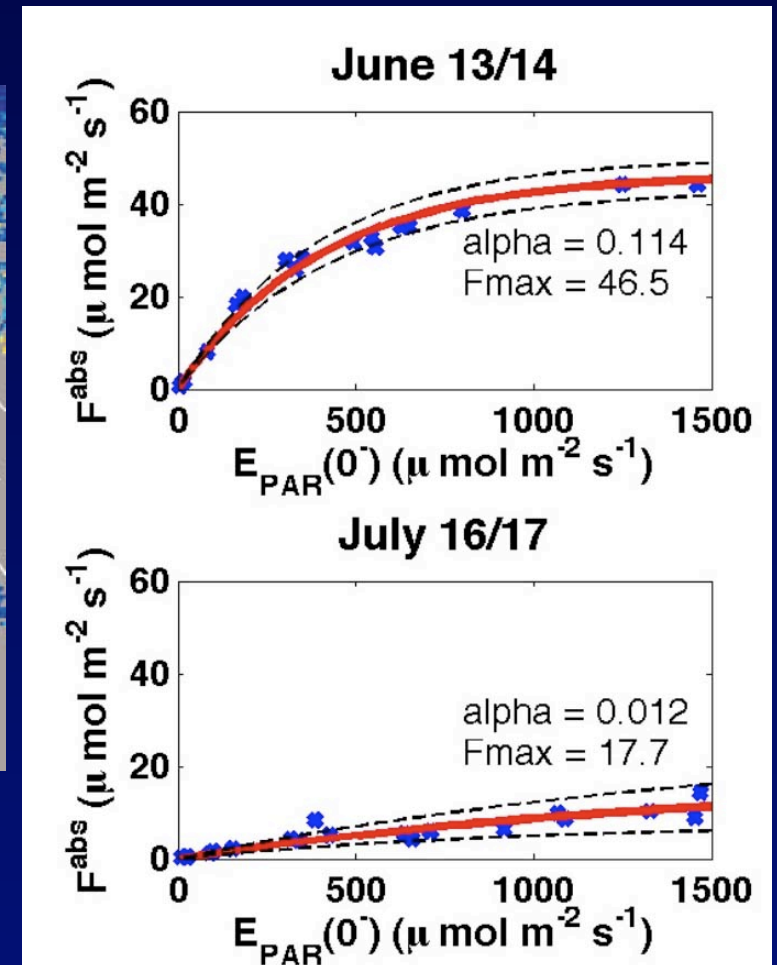
An influence of nutrition on NPQ?



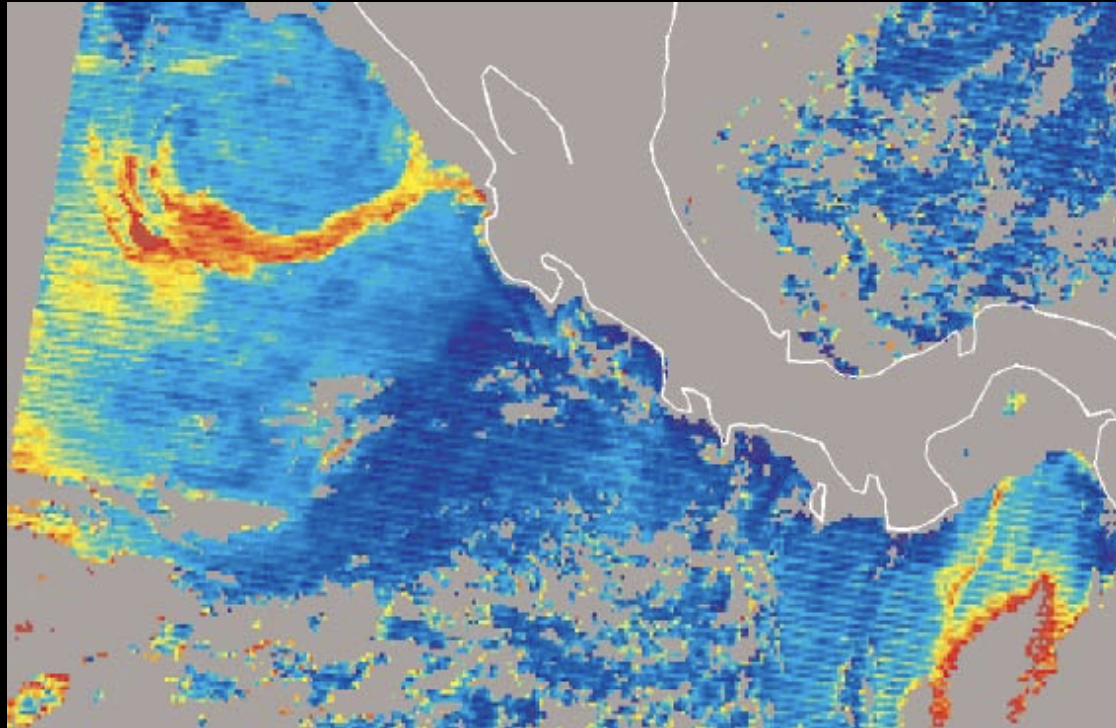
Working hypothesis: variability in the quantum yield of near-surface SICF in the ocean is driven by the slow component of nonphotochemical quenching, q_I .



...the phenomenology of which is nearly unknown

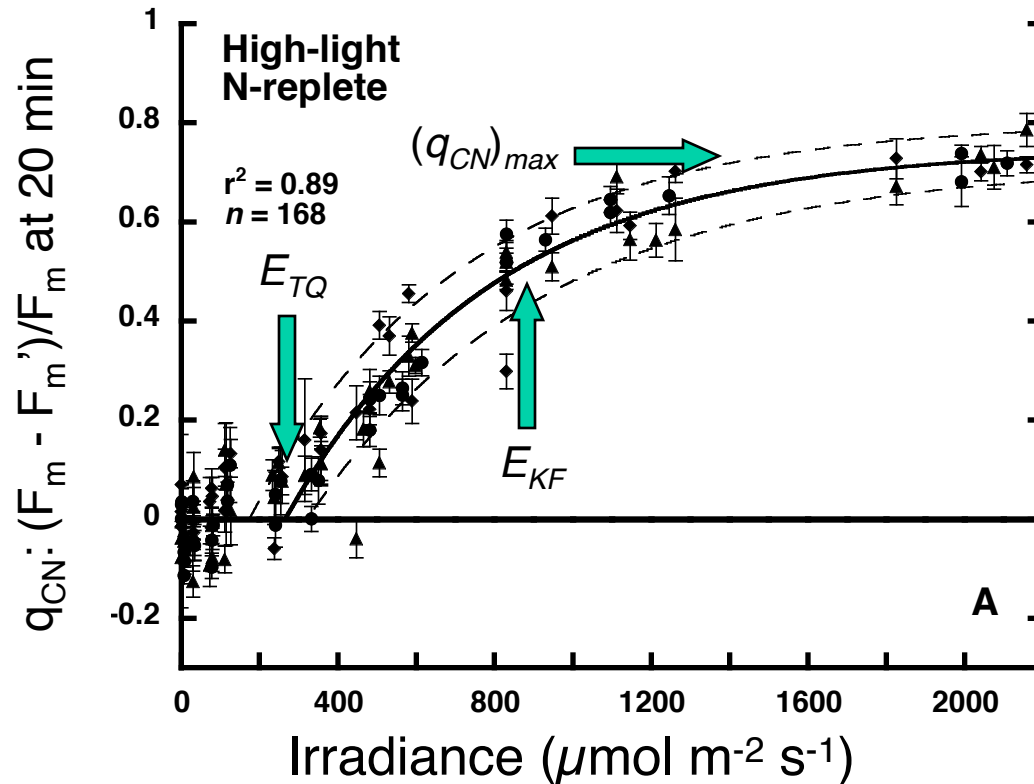


Interpreting this...



...thus requires an understanding of
NPQ vs $E = f(\text{physiological state, species})$

Careful, quantitative analysis of variable fluorescence vs E vs time



A. Barnett (M.Sc. thesis)
see also Laney et al 2005

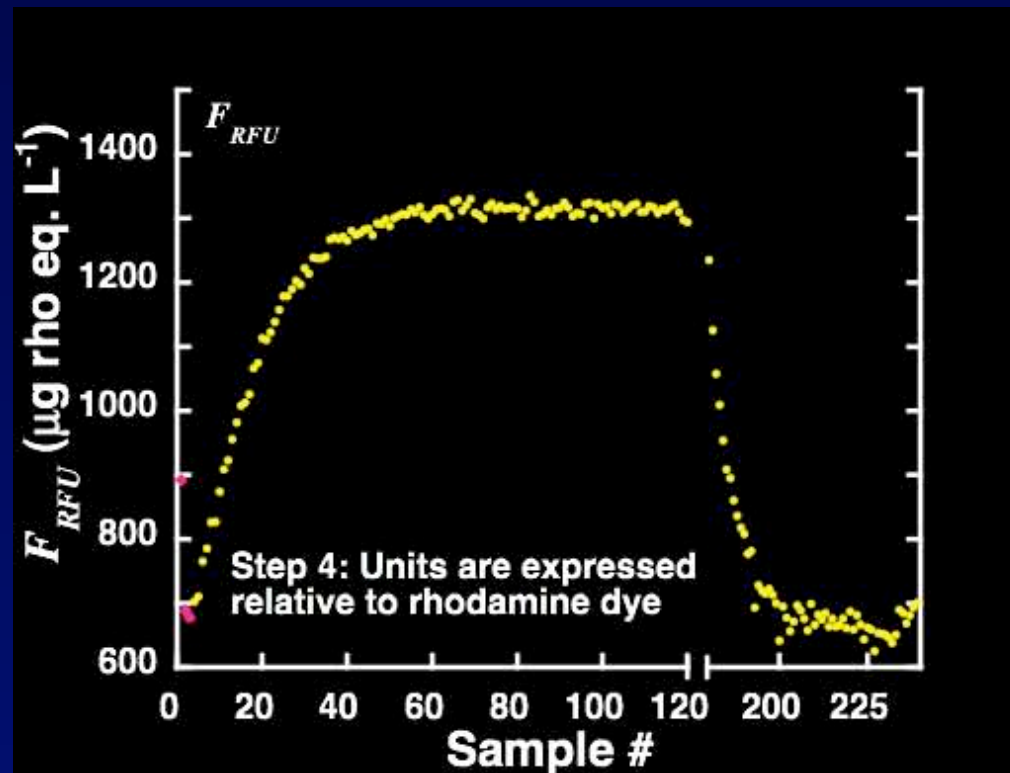
Parallel incubations: rapid light curves cause artifacts

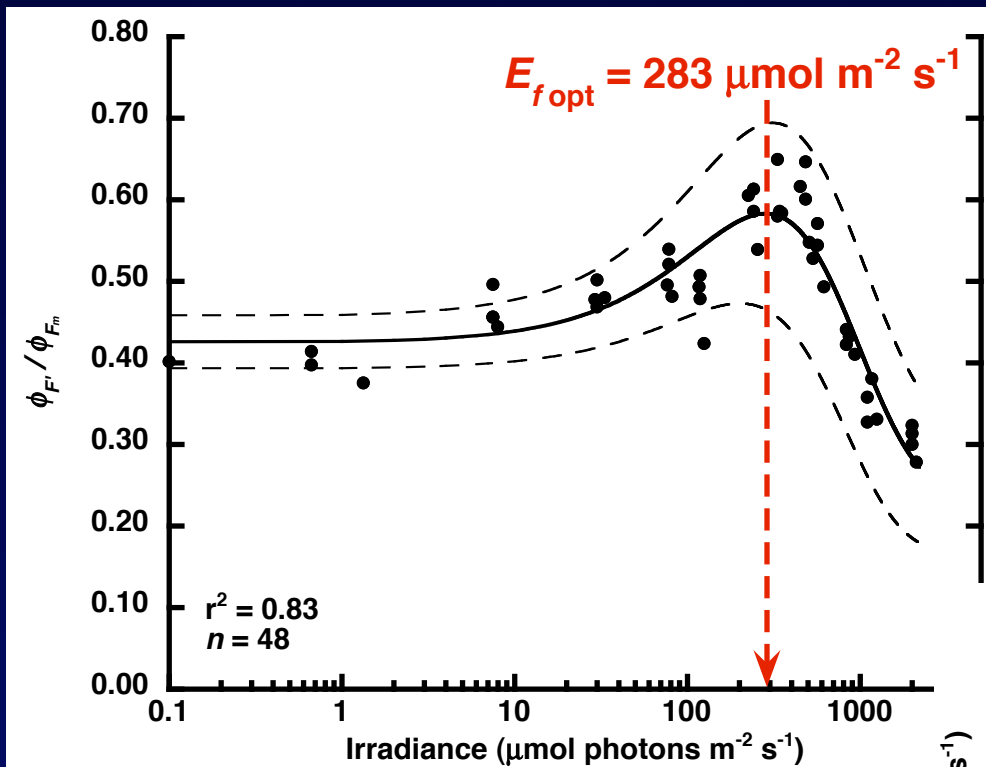
The FIRe Brigade is pursuing robust, quantitative procedures

**Comprehensive characterization of a variable fluorescence assessment system:
the Fluorescence Induction Relaxation fluorometer**

Audrey B. Barnett, Flavienne Bruyant, Caitlin B. Newport, Richard F. Davis, John J. Cullen

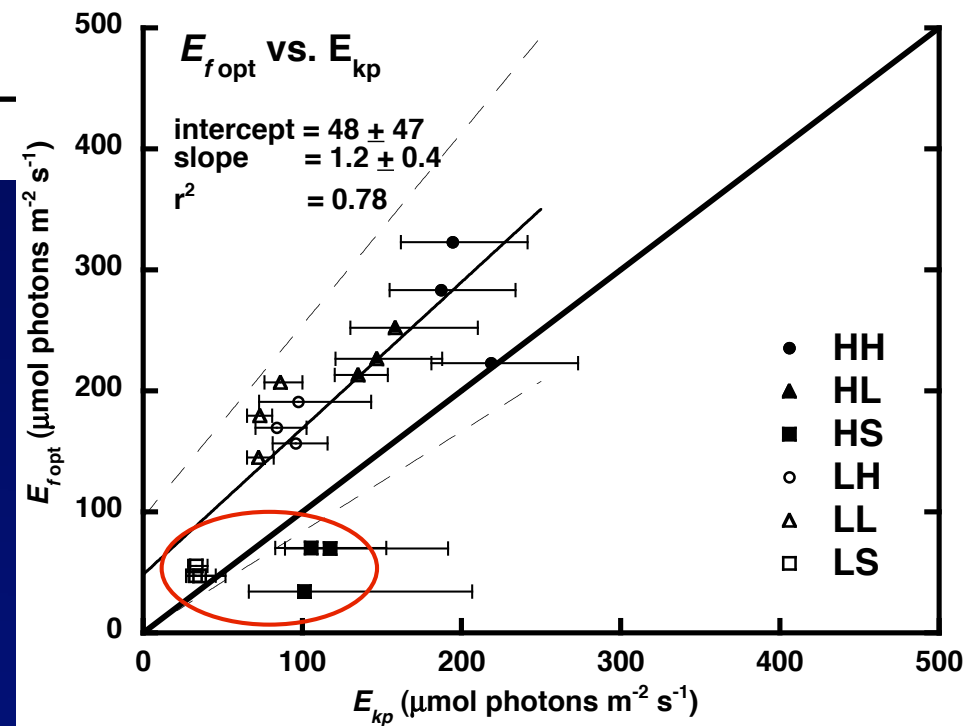
Analysis of raw data!
Reference standards!
Blanks!
Statistical estimates of errors!
F vs E vs time





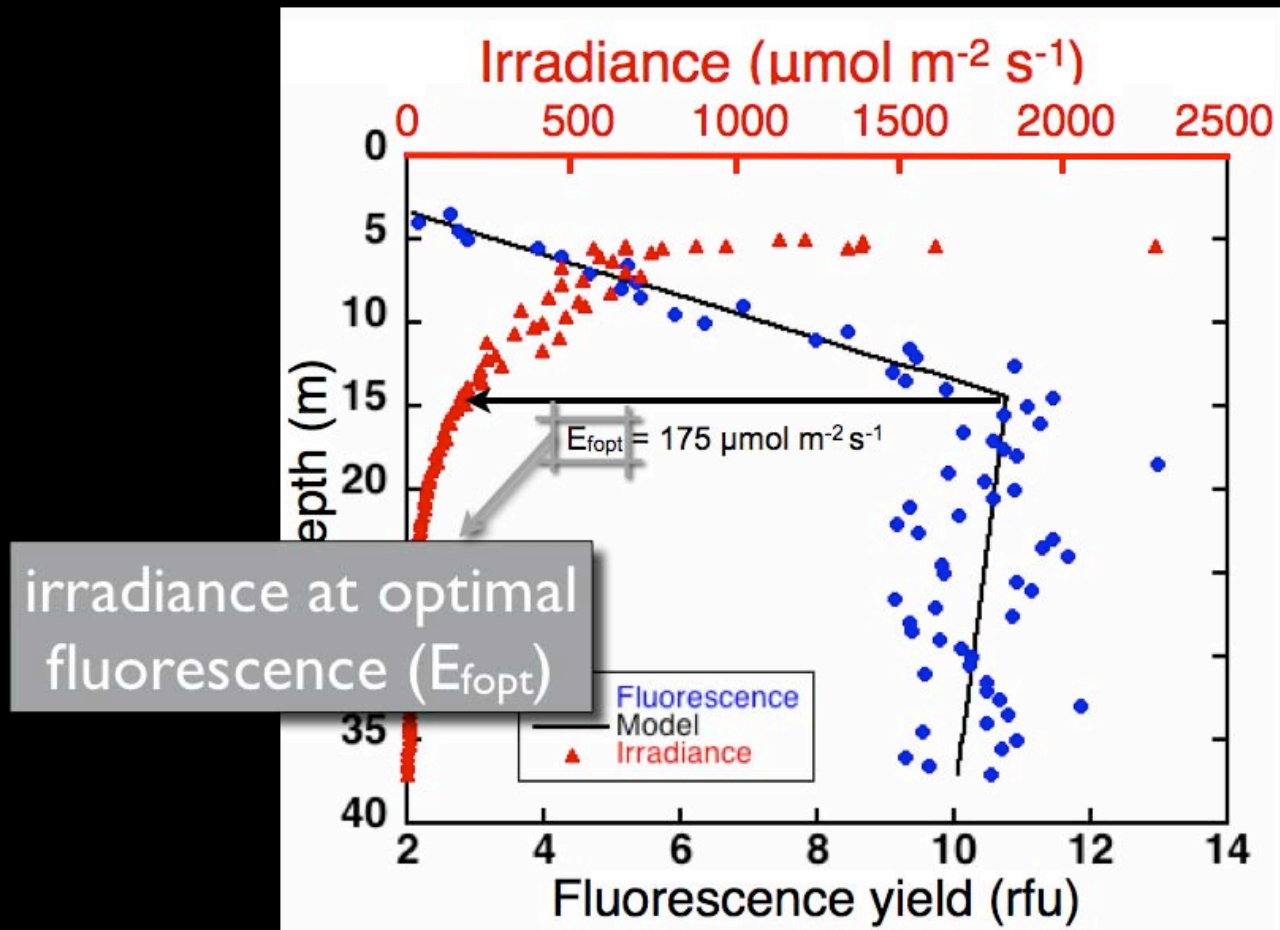
Relating F vs E to P vs E during parallel incubations

Not rapid light curves



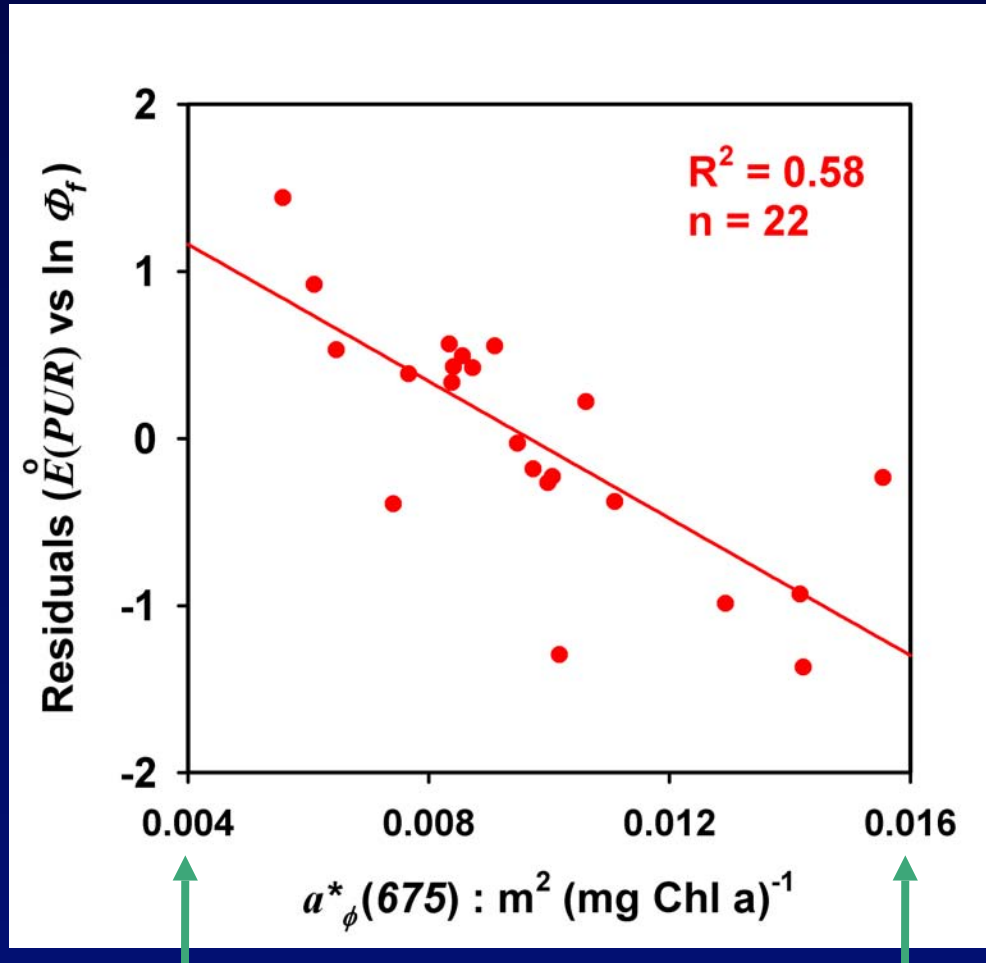
A. Barnett (M.Sc. thesis)

And retrieving similar information from vertical profiles using “any old fluorometer”



Systematic analysis of natural variability of ϕ_f

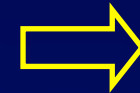
Susanne Craig



high packaging

low packaging

Large,
densely
pigmented
cells



High ϕ_f

Small, weakly
pigmented
cells



Low ϕ_f

Summary

Thank you!

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We don't know enough about the physiological influences on sun-induced chlorophyll fluorescence to interpret the variability effectively. We can propose explanations, but these would be hypotheses only.

Careful, quantitative analysis — both in the lab and in the field — will provide new and powerful interpretations of SICF.

Thank you!

