Inexpensive but robust approaches for determining optical and biogeochemical properties

Mike Twardowski and Emmanuel Boss

The problem: sensors are too expensive to be deployed at large quantities on the scales of interest to coastal populations (e.g. resolve tides, weather and beaches, be deployed in the developing world).

=> limits significantly the relevant and available data.

Why is it so?

- Pressure-resistant housing (most in-situ sensors are rated to 600m).
- 2. Accuracy requirement (e.g. to trace deep water masses).
- 3. Limited market.
- 4. Limited resources for some research groups and communities.

What can we do to change this situation?

- 1. Much of the data of interest is near surface.
- 2. Near the surface natural variability is large.
- 3. Bringing in industry (aquaculture, fisheries, tourism) creates a much larger market than science.
- 4. There are inexpensive but robust alternatives in some cases.

Additionally, a revolution is going on → cheap electronics processors, communication and sharing.

- 1. Cheap microprocessors such as Arduino and Raspberry Pi have made building a sensor and/or a sensing platform a Lego-like activity.
- 2. Communication via cell-phone, Wi-Fi and sat-com, provide near-real time data (e.g. for QC and adaptive sampling and incorporation to forecast).
- 3. Sharing of 'recipes' and ideas within/across communities allow for fast evolution and bug fixes (e.g. GitHub, instructables, Make magazine).
- 4. However, it is critical that uncertainties be associated with all measurements. Better to have no measurements than bad ones.
- 5. Full sensor characterizations essential for any custom device.

Attenuation (c) from horizontal vis with a black disk





Black disc method



tape measure

black disc viewer

black disc pole

Zaneveld and Pegau (2003)

 $V = 4.8/\alpha$ α = photopic attenuation

 $\alpha = c_{pg}(532)*0.9+0.081$



Fig. 3. Horizontal visibility of a 200 mm diameter black target. Blue points, Davies-Colley, "green" c-meter; red points, Zaneveld, c(532)*0.9+0.081; black point, Twardowski $c_{pg}(532)*0.9+0.081$; green points, Pegau, $c_{pg}(532)*0.9+0.081$; blue lines vis. range = $y = 4.8/\alpha$ and +/- 20% lines; green line vis. range = $y = (5.207-0.368 \text{ lmy})/\alpha$; red lines vis. range = $y = 4.55/\alpha$ and +/- 20% lines; $r^2 = 0.985$.



Figure 2. Mutual relationships of visual clarity, turbidity (Hach 2100A) and suspended sediment concentration in 97 New Zealand rivers (each river site sampled up to three times—n = 274 in total). Panel A. turbidity versus suspended sediment, B. turbidity versus black disc visibility, C. black disc visibility versus SSC. (Figure 3 of Davies-Colley and Close, 1990—used with permission)

Faecal contamination and visual clarity in New Zealand rivers: correlation of key variables affecting swimming suitability

Rob Davies-Colley, Amanda Valois and Juliet Milne



Figure 6 E. coli vs visual clarity at 64 river sites in the NRWQN, 2006–2015, in relation to existing guidelines for swimming water quality in NZ. The horizontal lines represent ALERT (260 cfu/100 mL) and ACTION (550 cfu/100 mL) levels for *E. coli* from MfE/MoH (2003); the vertical lines represent guidelines for visual clarity (1.6 m is from MfE (1994) and 1.0 m an indicative – informal – guideline for visual degradation of water appearance). Only about 1% of points fall into the top-right sector representing relatively high microbial risk (>550 cfu/ 100 mL) when water is relatively clear (>1.6 m). Journal of Water and Health 2018

<1.6 horizontal vis has been official Ministry for the Environment criteria for safe to swim in NZ since 1994

https://environment.govt.nz/assets/ Publications/Files/microbiologicalquality-jun03.pdf

Tube with black disk



Ministry for the Environment 1994. "Water Quality Guidelines No. 2: Guidelines for the Management of water colour and clarity". Ministry for the Environment, Wellington, N.Z.

Depending on arm length, one person can take a clarity tube reading (far right), or it may be easier with two people.



Clarity tube method











New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research, 2002, Vol. 3



Fig. 1 SHMAK clarity tube for measuring water clarity. (Photo: Helen Ricketts.)

 $y_{\rm BD} = 7.28 \times 10^{[y}_{\rm cr}$ /62.5]

Fig. 4 Black disk readings (logarithmic scale) versus clarity tube readings (y_{BD} versus y_{CT}) (black background).

NZ safe to swim: >1 m vis with black disk in tube

Kilroy and Biggs (2002)

Secchi disk depth: theory

Contrast reduction theory for detecting target for any direction:





Parameters are for *photopic* spectral response

Preisendorfer (1963), Duntley (1976) but work originated in 1940's; extensively validated

Secchi disk depth: theory

Contrast reduction theory for detecting target for any direction:

At some range, contrast between a target and background will no longer bodiscernible, i.e., the limiting contrast threshold will have been reached: = $\exp[-cr + K(\theta,\phi,z) r\cos(\theta)]$ $C_L \equiv \frac{C_r(\theta,\phi,z_T)}{C_0(\theta,\phi,z_T)}$, and

$$V = -\ln (C_L) / [c - K(\theta, \phi, z) \cos(\theta)]$$

For Secchi disk: $Z_{SD} = -\ln(C_L) / [c + K]$

ſ	
L	I

lssues

For Secchi disk: $Z_{SD} = -\ln(C_L) / [c + K]$

- When Z_{SD} , *c*, and *K* are determined, large range observed in -ln (C_L)
- White vs black vs black/white quadrants
- Size of disk
- Shady side vs sunny side (i.e., glint)
- Cloudy vs sunny
- Wavy surface
- Sun elevation
- Scattering albedo (b/c)
- Eye adaptation to ambient lighting
- Observing altitude above water

All noted by Secchi in 19th century (Pitarch 2020)

-ln (C_L) typically varies from ~5-10 (Bukata 2005)









Article

A Printable Device for Measuring Clarity and Colour in Lake and Nearshore Waters

Robert J. W. Brewin ^{1,2,*,†}, Thomas G. Brewin ^{3,†}, Joseph Phillips ^{3,4}, Sophie Rose ^{3,4}, Anas Abdulaziz ⁵, Werenfrid Wimmer ⁶, Shubha Sathyendranath ^{1,2} and Trevor Platt ¹

Using a view box





Figure 1. Relationship between Secchi depth measurements made with the aid of a viewer box and the naked eye. The open and closed symbols refer to measurements made on the sunny and shady side of the boat, respectively.

David Smith, Director of Aquatic Studies, New York City's DEP, https://acwi.gov

Remote Sensing of Environment 169 (2015) 139-149



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Remote Sensing of Environment

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rse

Secchi disk depth: A new theory and mechanistic model for underwater visibility

ZhongPing Lee^{a,*}, Shaoling Shang^{b,*}, Chuanmin Hu^c, Keping Du^d, Alan Weidemann^e, Weilin Hou^e, Junfang Lin^a, Gong Lin^b

A new theory for Secchi depths

For 150 years, oceanographers have assessed water clarity using a simple, robust method first devised by an Italian priest. Until recently, however, researchers have struggled to match field observations made using these 'Secchi Dr ZhongPing Lee at the this depth, and obtained results consistent with nearly a century of past observations. The methods have be

overing roughly 71% of our planet's surface, the water contained in oceans and lakes underpins the survival of many different ecosystems, both marine and land based. Yet increasingly, human activities are altering several key characteristics of aquatic environments worldwide - including their temperatures and populations of microscopic organisms - each of which are inflicting various levels of damage on the ecosystems. To determine the influence of these changes, researchers have developed a wide variety of techniques to assess water quality.





Some controversy....

LIMNOLOGY and **OCEANOGRAPHY**



Limnol. Oceanogr. 00, 2018, 00-00 © 2018 Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography doi: 10.1002/lno.10940

Resolving the long-standing puzzles about the observed Secchi depth relationships

Zhongping Lee ⁽⁰⁾, ¹* Shaoling Shang ⁽⁰⁾, ²* Keping Du, ³ Jianwei Wei ⁽⁰⁾ ¹School for the Environment, University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, Massachusetts ²State Key Lab of Marine Environmental Science, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China ³State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science, School of Geography, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China



Remote Sensing Environment

disks' to theoretical models. Through dedicated research, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and colleagues from other institutes in China and the USA, have revolutionised the theory and model regarding

Earth & Environment | ZhongPing Lee

Lee et al. (2015)

Secchi disk depth: A new theory and mechanistic model for underwater visibility



ZhongPing Lee ^{a,*}, Shaoling Shang ^{b,*}, Chuanmin Hu ^c, Keping Du ^d, Alan Weidemann ^e, Weilin Hou ^e, Junfang Lin ^a, Gong Lin ^b

- 1. Questions path radiance being same over target vs adjacent background
 - Background path radiance will be brighter directly adjacent to a white disk target, but this effect diminishes to nil near secchi disk depth
 - Makes an exception for horizontal viewing: "This may occur because most of the surrounding light over the target and the background are strong radiances in the horizontal directions as demonstrated with field observations (Zaneveld and Pegau, 2003)."
- 2. Questions contrast definition as $[L_T L_B]/L_B$
 - This is Weber contrast definition that has been validated extensively throughout many disciplines
 - Suggests we should be using absolute radiance differences only

Justification given as size of disk relative to spatial resolving capability of human eye

- "Due to this extremely fine resolution of the human eye, the relationship between the pixel size of the collected image and the size of a target will depend on the distance (z) and the size of the target"
 - This is spatial frequency (Hou et al. 2007)
 - But doesn't obviously explain reasoning for 1+2 (at least for me)

Visibility ranges from modulation transfer function (MTF) imaging theory

Using relationships from Hou, Lee, Weidemann (2007), the following can be derived:



Consistent with Contrast Reduction Theory but includes terms for disk contrast and size



It works





Forel-Ule color scale

- Pitarch et al. (2019)
 - Can derive Kd
 - Other parameters with increasing errors...



Deploy over white Secchi disk

Pitarch et al. (2019) RSE

Bold traces outlining gray areas are 25%-75% of cases

Fig. 9. Diffuse attenuation coefficient of downwelling irradiance of the first 9 FU classes, representing the median in bold line and the interval between the 25th and 75th percentiles in shaded band. For a complete description, the reader is referred to Table A2.

As an example, can derive light profiles for PAR with reasonable accuracy

Recap - derived optical parameters

can potentially solve for:

- Attenuation *c*
- Diffuse attenuation K_d
- Absorption a
- biogeochemical properties via proxies (or measure directly...)

 $a = K\bar{\mu}$ (Gershun's Eq)

Note:

c = a + b

$$K_d \sim a + b_b$$

Published: October 2003

Horizontal sighting range and Secchi depth as estimators of underwater PAR attenuation in a coastal lagoon

Martín A. Montes-Hugo, Saúl Alvarez-Borrego 🗠 & Alma D. Giles-Guzmán

Estuaries 26, 1302–1309 (2003) Cite this article

159 Accesses | 10 Citations | Metrics

Abstract

Attenuation of photosynthetically available radiation (PAR) measured using a light meter, was related to Secchi disk, horizontal black disk and horizontal sighting ranges observed in a coastal lagoon of the Southern California Current System. Vertical attenuation coefficient (K_{PAR}) was calculated from radiometric PAR profiles. Vertical (Z_D) and horizontal (HS) sighting ranges were measured with white (Secchi depth or Z_{SD}, HS $_W$) and black (Z_{BD}, HS $_B$) targets. Empirical power models for the K_{PAR}-Z_{SD} (K_{PAR}=1.47 Z_{SD} ^{-1.13}), K_{PAR}-Z_{BD} (K_{PAR}=0.98 Z_{BD} ^{-1.26}), K_{PAR}-HS $_W$ (K_{PAR}=1.22 HS $_W$ ^{-1.14}) and K_{PAR}-HS $_B$ (K_{PAR}=0.73 HS $_B$ ^{-1.07}) relationships were developed. The parameters of these models may not apply to other water

Inexpensive digital sensors

Holographic imaging with cell phone

3D printed accessory ~\$10

Particle size distributions

Fluorescent Imaging of Single Nanoparticles and Viruses on a Smart Phone

Qingshan Wei,^{†,‡,§} Hangfei Qi,^{II} Wei Luo,[†] Derek Tseng,[†] So Jung Ki,[⊥] Zhe Wan,[†] Zoltán Göröcs,^{†,‡} Laurent A. Bentolila,^{§,⊥} Ting-Ting Wu,^{II} Ren Sun,^{§,II} and Aydogan Ozcan^{†,‡,§,*}

[†]Electrical Engineering Department, [‡]Bioengineering Department, [§]California NanoSystems Institute (CNSI), ^{II} Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, and [⊥]Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), California 90095, United States

ABSTRACT Optical imaging of nanoscale objects, whether it is based on scattering or fluorescence, is a challenging task due to reduced detection signal-to-noise ratio and contrast at subwavelength dimensions. Here, we report a field-portable fluorescence microscopy platform installed on a smart phone for imaging of individual nanoparticles as well as viruses using a lightweight and compact opto-mechanical attachment to the existing camera module of the cell phone. This hand-held fluorescent imaging device utilizes (i) a compact 450 nm laser diode that creates oblique excitation on the sample plane with an incidence angle of

 \sim 75°, (ii) a long-pass thin-film interference filter to reject the scattered excitation light, (iii) an external lens creating 2× optical magnification, and (iv) a translation stage for focus adjustment. We tested the imaging performance of this smart-phone-enabled microscopy platform by detecting isolated 100 nm fluorescent particles as well as individual human cytomegaloviruses that are fluorescently labeled. The size of each detected nano-object on the cell phone platform was validated using scanning electron microscopy images of the same samples. This field-portable fluorescence microscopy attachment to the cell phone, weighing only \sim 186 g, could be used for specific and sensitive imaging of subwavelength objects including various bacteria and viruses and, therefore, could provide a valuable platform for the practice of nanotechnology in field settings and for conducting viral load measurements and other biomedical tests even in remote and resource-limited environments.

acsnano 2013

Cheap sensors that are smart

They're multi-beam

Phathom's multi-beam turbidity sensors provide unrivalled accuracy that single-beam sensors simply can't supply. Phathoms generate multiple light beams that are synthesized into a ratio-metric algorithm that, once calibrated, precisely calculates turbidity or total suspended solids and self-compensates for common sources of measurement error.

Read about the technology

• Spin off from an undergrad class project

sensors

ISSN 1424-8220 www.mdpi.com/journal/sensors

Article

In situ Measurements of Phytoplankton Fluorescence Using Low Cost Electronics

Thomas Leeuw *, Emmanuel S. Boss and Dana L. Wright

Table 1. List of prices (in US dollars) and sources for all components in the sensor.

Component	Source	Price
Blue LED (LED420L)	ThorLabs	\$28.49
Waterproof Box (Drybox 2500)	Otterbox	\$20.49
Arduino Duemilanove	Amazon	\$20.00
1/2" Convex Lens (f = 15 mm)	ThorLabs	\$19.70
Photodiode (FDS100)	ThorLabs	\$13.10
(2) 5 GΩ Resistor	Digi-Key	\$10.20
Roscolux Filter Booklet	Edmund Optics	\$9.70
SD Card Shield (Data Logger)	imall.iteadstudio.com	\$9.50
2 GB SD Card	Amazon	\$5.29
Operational Amplifier (OP07)	Digi-Key	\$4.04
Printed Circuit Board	RadioShack	\$2.00
(2) 10 Ω Resistor	Digi-Key	\$0.24
10 pF Capacitor	Digi-Key	\$0.29
Total		\$143.04

Waterproof Housing

Characterization of out of band response to particles

Comparison with commercial sensor

A water-quality application for the phone.

Article The HydroColor App: Above Water Measurements of Remote Sensing Reflectance and Turbidity Using a Smartphone Camera

Thomas Leeuw ^{1,*} and Emmanuel Boss ² 2018

remote sensing

Article Is Ocean Reflectance Acquired by Citizen Scientists Robust for Science Applications?

Yuyan Yang ^{1,*}, Laura L.E. Cowen ¹ 💿 and Maycira Costa ² 2

2018

>8000 downloads (free).

MDPI

MDPI

Characterization of phone cameras

Comparison with commercial sensor for Rrs

Turbidity vs. Rrs(red)

Improving phone apps using raw data

Smartphone radiance comparison

KduPRO

Measuring attenuation at RGB

Hardware components

Component	Cost (€)
Feather HUZZAH ESP8266	19.49
Adalogger FeatherWing RTC Clock and SD	9.60
FeatherWing Proto	5.31
Underwater case (GoPro or similar)	15.69
TCS34725 color RGB sensor	11.76
Lithium-ion Polymer Battery	8.41
MicroSD	13.39
CR1220 Button Battery 3V	1.33
PCB socket 2.54 mm square 7 contacts	2.19
PCB Receptacle 2.54 mm board-to-board 20 contacts	3.47
PCB Receptacle 2.54 mm board-to-board 50 contacts	6.67
	Total
Budget for build one module of KduPRO	97.31

Reproducibility

Relation between one module of KduPRO and Li-COR Li-192 reference sensor

Validation of radiance

Turbidity sensors

OPEN ACCESS

The Turbidity Tube:

Sensors Simple and Accurate Measurement

ISSN 1424-8220

www.mdpi.com/journal/sensors

of Turbidity in the Field

Article

An Affordable Open-Source Turbidimeter

Christopher D. Kelley^{1,*}, Alexander Krolick², Logan Brunner¹, Alison Burklund¹, Daniel Kahn¹, William P. Ball¹ and Monroe Weber-Shirk³

Article Open Access Published: 20 June 2022

Written April 2006 for the requirements of CE 5993 Field Engineering in the Developing World and FW 5770 Community Planning and Analysis

Open-source, low-cost, in-situ turbidity sensor for river network monitoring

Jessica Droujko 🗠 & Peter Molnar

Scientific Reports 12, Article number: 10341 (2022) | Cite this article

656 Accesses 7 Altmetric Metrics

Fluorometers:

Lensless Miniature Portable Fluorometer for Measurement of Chlorophyll and CDOM in Water Using Fluorescence Contact Imaging

Lior Blockstein and Orly Yadid-Pecht, Fellow, IEEE

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4, Canada

DOI: 10.1109/JPHOT.2014.2326665

1943-0655 © 2014 IEEE. Translations and content mining are permitted for academic research only. Personal use is also permitted, but republication/redistribution requires IEEE permission. See http://www.ieee.org/publications_standards/publications/rights/index.html for more information.

Photosynthesis Research (2019) 142:361–368 https://doi.org/10.1007/s11120-019-00673-2

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

A guide to Open-JIP, a low-cost open-source chlorophyll fluorometer

Harvey Bates¹ · Alonso Zavafer¹ · Milán Szabó^{1,2} · Peter J. Ralph¹

Received: 27 May 2019 / Accepted: 9 September 2019 / Published online: 20 September 2019 © Springer Nature B.V. 2019

Calibration for fluorometers:

Set of Secondary Emission Standards for Calibration of the Spectral Responsivity in Emission Spectroscopy

J. A. GARDECKI and M. MARONCELLI*

Department of Chemistry, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

J Fluoresc (2006) 16:581–587 DOI 10.1007/s10895-006-0086-8

ORIGINAL PAPER

The Calibration Kit *Spectral Fluorescence Standards*—A Simple and Certified Tool for the Standardization of the Spectral Characteristics of Fluorescence Instruments

D. Pfeifer · K. Hoffmann · A. Hoffmann · C. Monte · U. Resch-Genger

Imaging systems:

bioRxiv posts many COVID19-related papers. A reminder: they have not been formally peer-reviewed and should not guide health-related behavior or be reported in the press as conclusive.

New Results

Follow this preprint

PlanktonScope:Affordable modular imaging platform for citizen oceanography

Thibaut Pollina, Adam G. Larson, Fabien Lombard, Hongquan Li, Sebastien Colin, Colomban de Vargas, Danu Prakash

doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.23.056978

Open Access

A deep learning-enabled portable imaging flow cytometer for cost-effective, highthroughput, and label-free analysis of natural water samples

Zoltán G**örö**cs^{12,3}, Miu Tamamitsu^{1,2,3}, Vittorio Bianco¹, Patrick Wolf¹, Shounak Roy¹, Koyoshi Shindo¹, Kyrollos Yanny², Yichen Wu^{1,2,3}, Hatice Ceylan Koydemir^{1,2,3}, Yair Rivenson^{1,2,3} and Aydogan Ozcan^{1,2,3}

Göröcs et al. Light: Science & Applications (2018)7:66 DOI 10.1038/s41377-018-0067-0

ARTICLE

> DIY OCEANOGRAPHY DIY-Oceanography section in the Oceanography Magazine

Inlinino A MODULAR SOFTWARE DATA LOGGER FOR OCEANOGRAPHY

Using IoT tools to broadcast data to phones/tablets

By Nils Haëntjens and Emmanuel Boss Software based datalogger. Time stamps and logs data from analogue and digital sensors. Graphical interface – real time data. Works on PCs, Macs and Linux. Used to log: AC-S, LISST, Eco-bb3, Seapoint fluoromter, Hyper-bb, CTD.... All simultaneously on the same computer. https://inlinino.readthedocs.io/en/latest/

2020

Aquacultural Engineering 80 (2018) 28-36

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Aquacultural Engineering

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/aque

Design and operation of a low-cost and compact autonomous buoy system for use in coastal aquaculture and water quality monitoring

engineering

Hindawi Publishing Corporation Journal of Sensors Volume 2015, Article ID 920168, 23 pages http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2015/920168

Wiebke Schmidt^{a,b,*}, David Raymond^b, David Parish^b, Ian G.C. Ashton^{a,b}, Peter I. Miller^c, Carlos J.A. Campos^d, Jamie D. Shutler^a

Research Article

Oceanographic Multisensor Buoy Based on Low Cost Sensors for Posidonia Meadows Monitoring in Mediterranean Sea

Sandra Sendra, Lorena Parra, Jaime Lloret, and José Miguel Jiménez

Wrap up

- Robust analog methods exist for potentially determining c and K... a, b,
 b_b may also be potentially derived
- An ongoing revolution in inexpensive electronic and optical components provides new opportunities to develop inexpensive, robust sensors
- Validation and closure between methods is highly desirable to quantify uncertainties
- Analog methods are useful if expensive optical sensors are not available for research, but can also be very useful metrics as a gut check on highest quality measurements
- Many applications relating to water quality and imaging can accommodate larger uncertainties associated with many of these methods