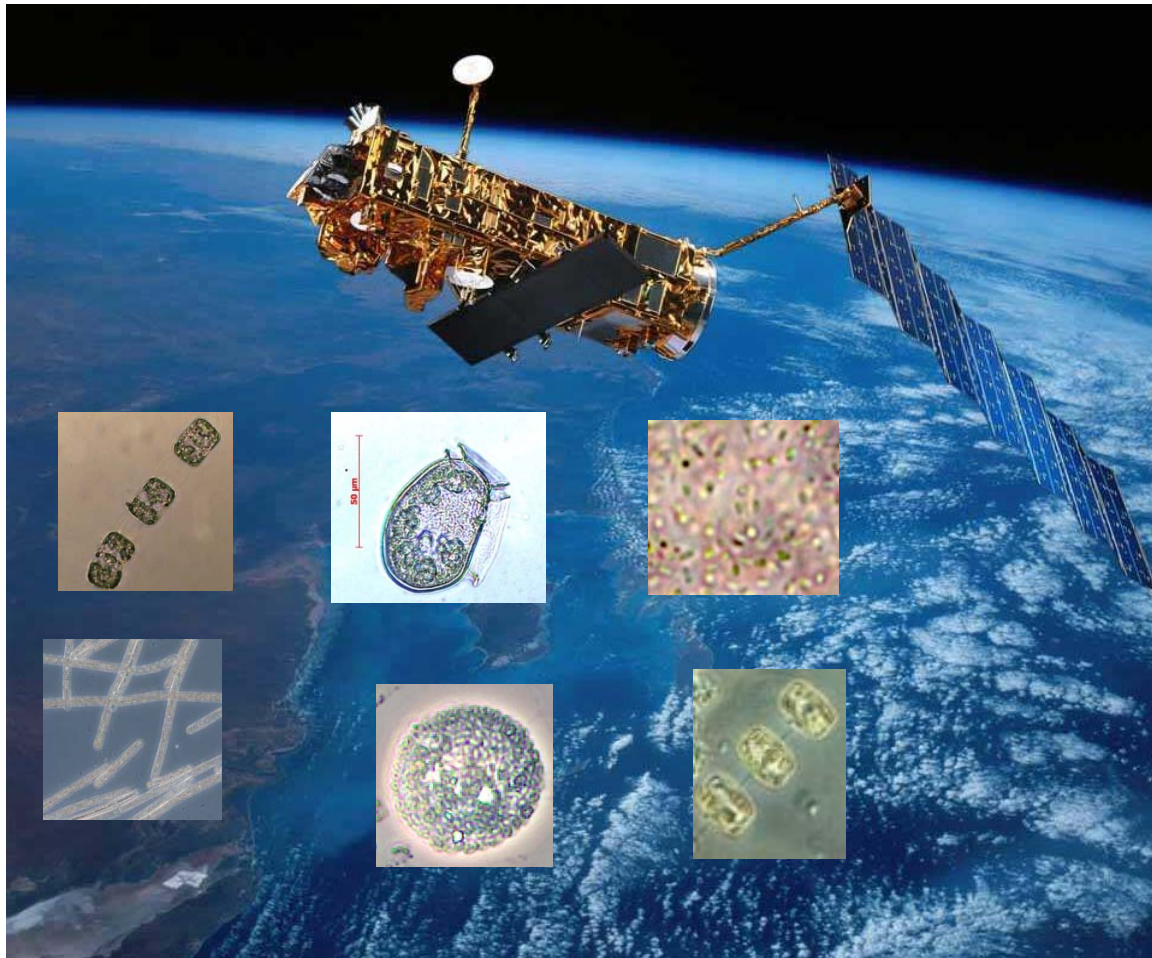


# Phytoplankton group products from ocean colour satellite data



Astrid Bracher, Nick Hardman-Mountford



Contributions from: Robert Brewin (PML), Astrid Bracher (AWI), Annick Bricaud (LOV) & Aurea Ciotti (INPE), Cecile Dupouy (IRD), Taka Hirata (HU), Toru Hirawake (HU), Tiho Kostadinov (UR), Emmanuelle Organelli (LOV), Dave Siegel (ERI), Shuba Sathyendranath (PML), Emmanuel Devred (UL)

# Overview

**Main principles of different phytoplankton groups - basics of different algorithms' approaches**

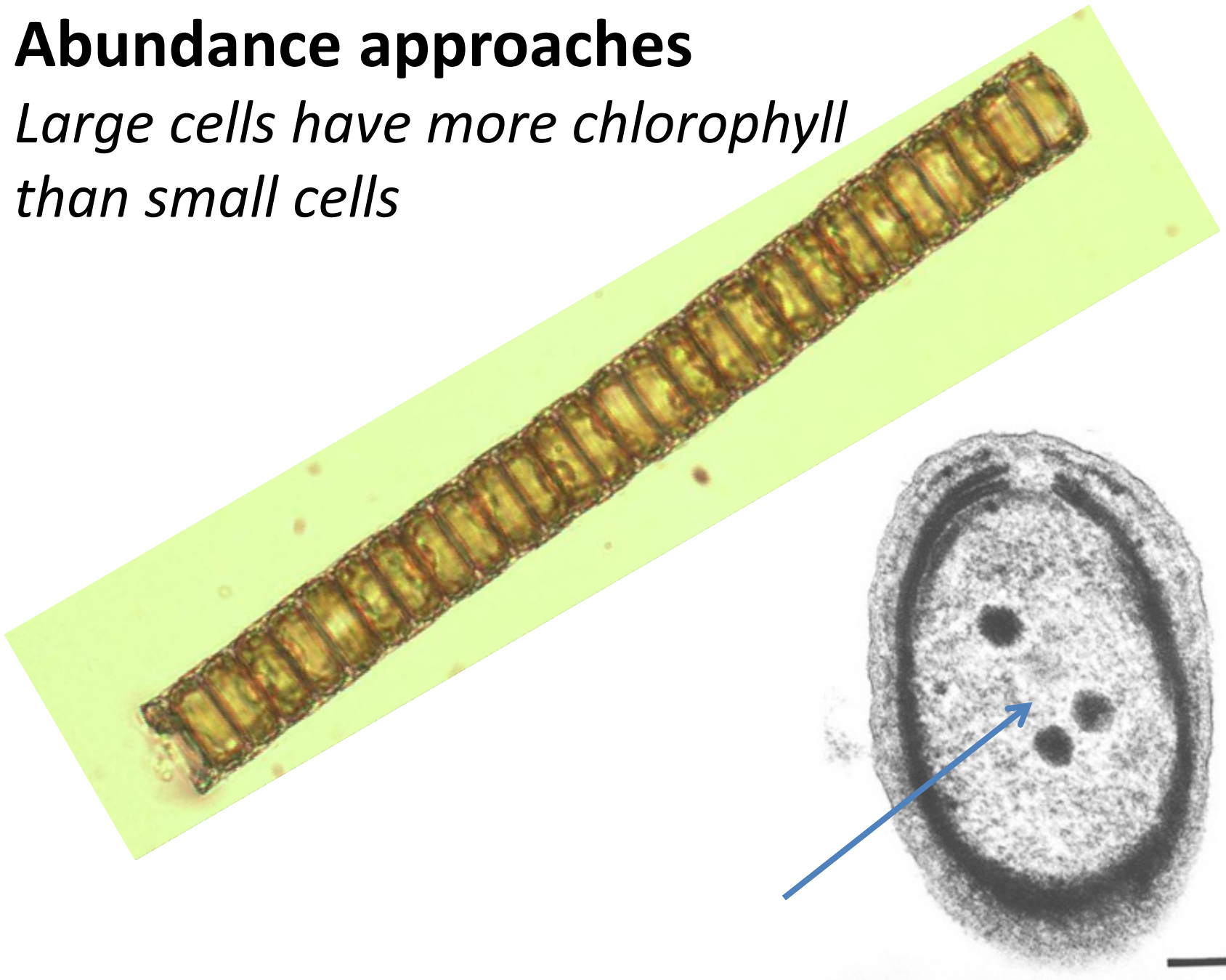
**Short overview of current (not complete!!!) multiple phytoplankton functional types (PFT) or size class (PSC) algorithms and satellite products:**

- a) Abundance based - biomass/dominance of different PSC/PFT:**
  - using chl only
  - combined with a443 or bb
  - empirical reflectance ratios (via marker pigments conc.)
  
- b) Spectral**
  - reflectance anomalies - dominant PFT)
  - phytoplankton absorption (and bbp) - PSC conc.
  - PFT absorption spectra (hyperspectral!) - PFT conc.
  - particle backscatter to infer particle size distribution

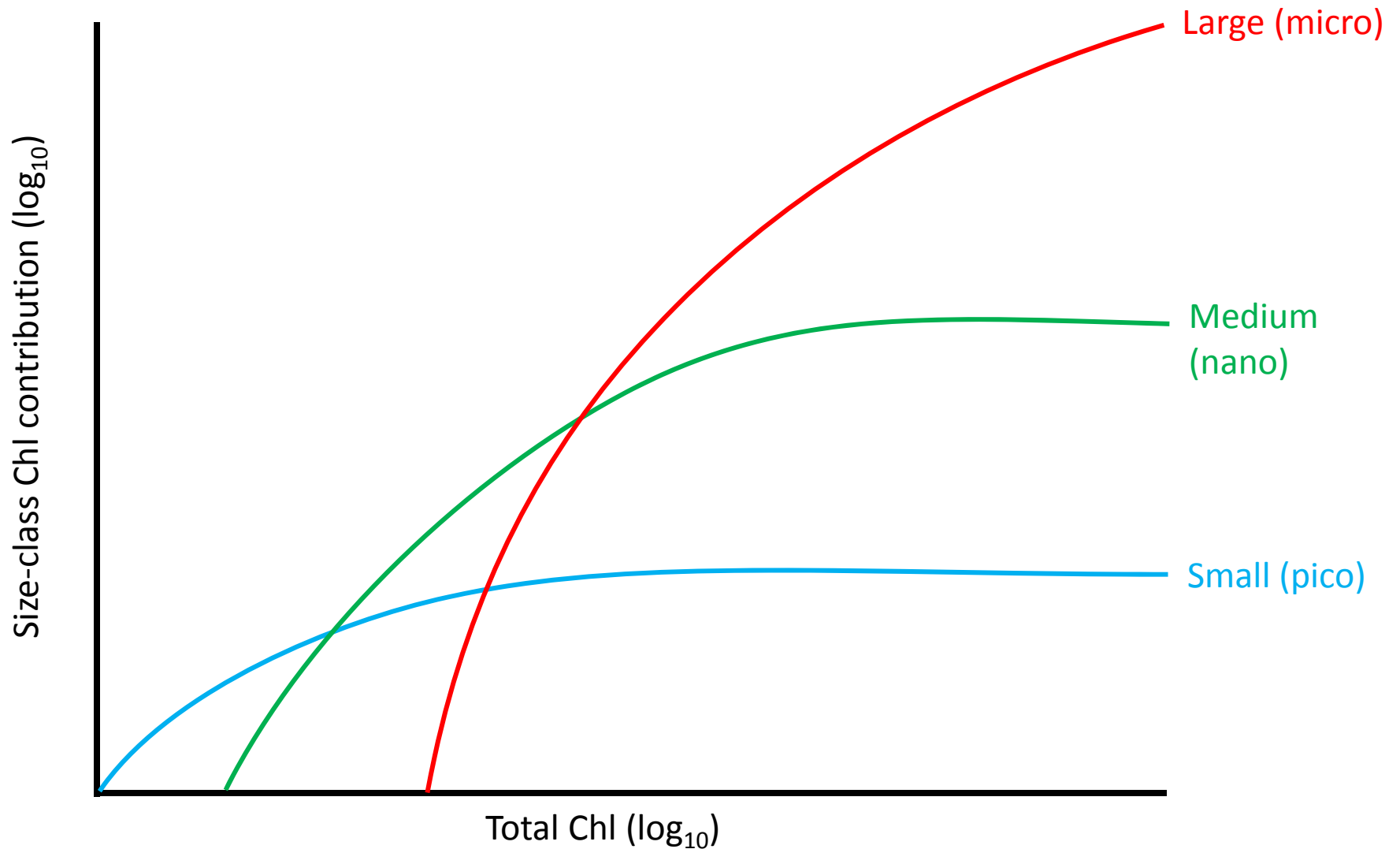
## Summary

# Abundance approaches

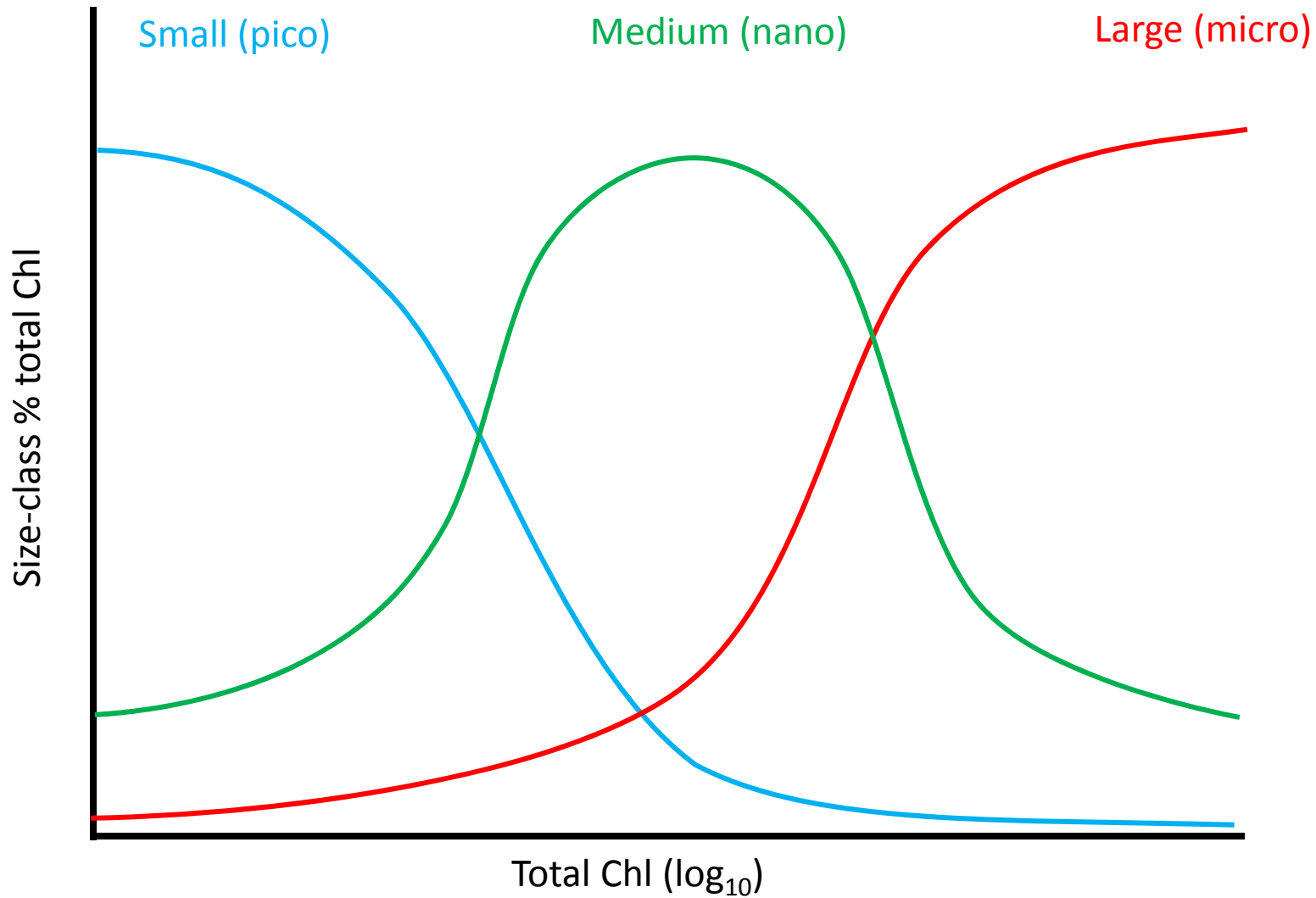
*Large cells have more chlorophyll than small cells*



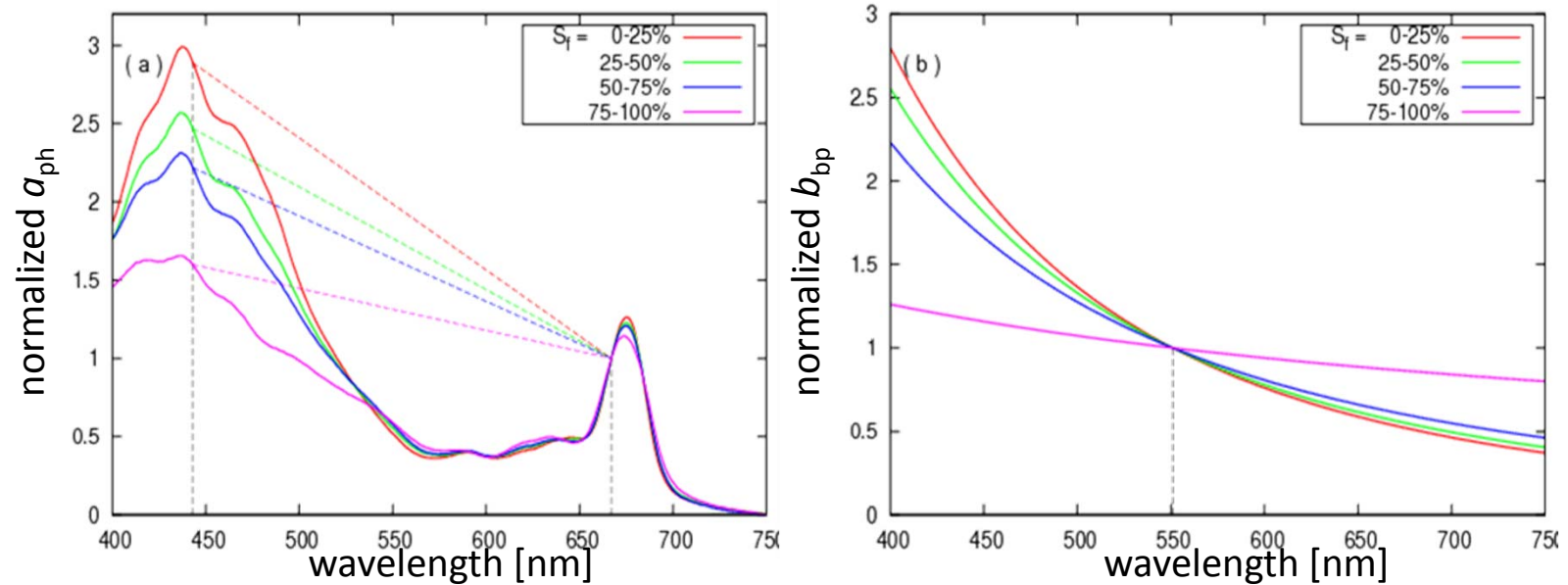
# Larger size classes add chlorophyll



# Larger size classes add chlorophyll



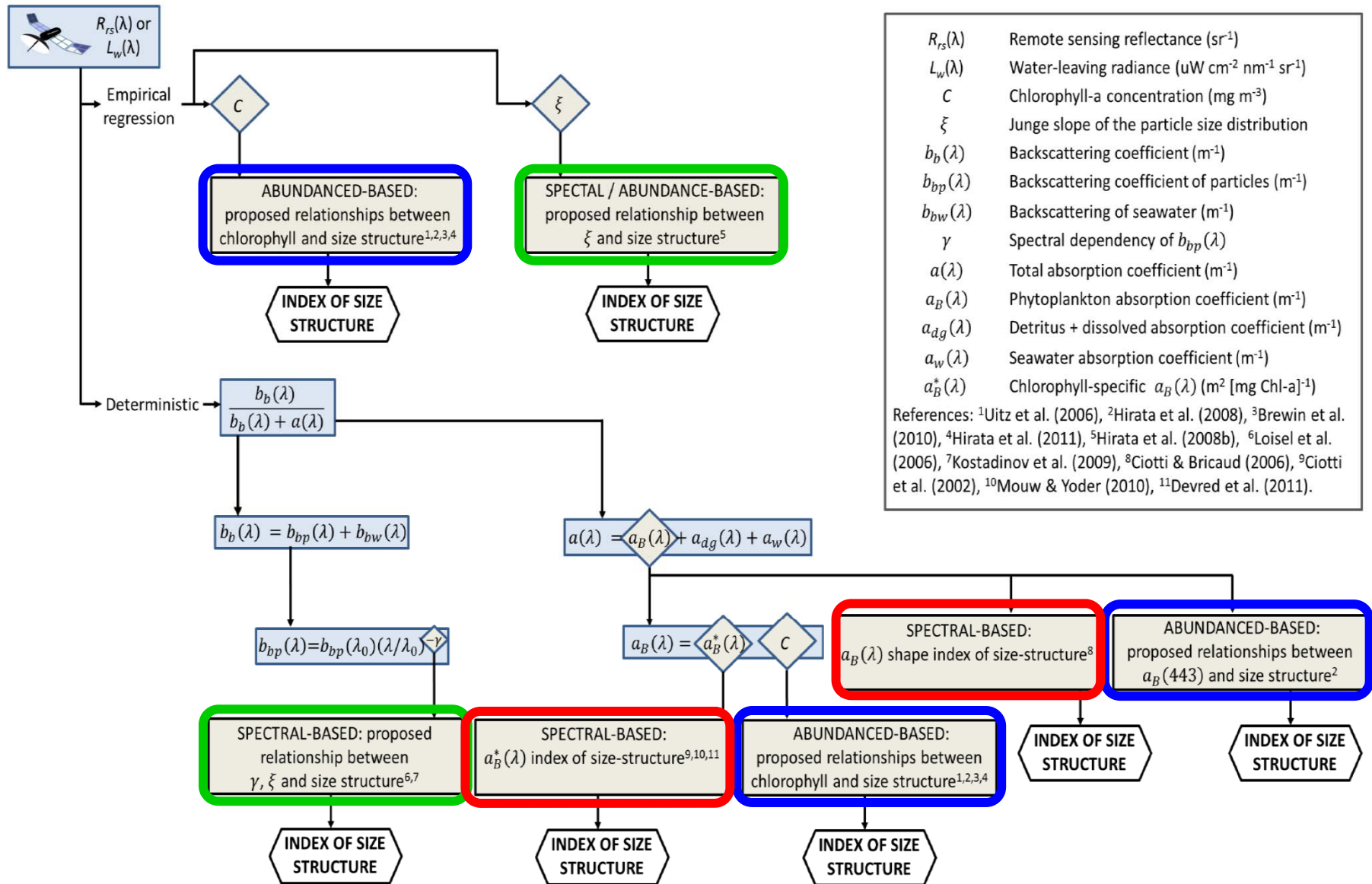
# Spectral approaches



*Plots courtesy of Toru Hirawake*

Based on changes in shape and slope

# Size-structure *and* PFT approaches



$R_{rs}(\lambda)$	Remote sensing reflectance ( $sr^{-1}$ )
$L_w(\lambda)$	Water-leaving radiance ( $uW\ cm^{-2}\ nm^{-1}\ sr^{-1}$ )
$C$	Chlorophyll-a concentration ( $mg\ m^{-3}$ )
$\xi$	Junge slope of the particle size distribution
$b_b(\lambda)$	Backscattering coefficient ( $m^{-1}$ )
$b_{bp}(\lambda)$	Backscattering coefficient of particles ( $m^{-1}$ )
$b_{bw}(\lambda)$	Backscattering of seawater ( $m^{-1}$ )
$\gamma$	Spectral dependency of $b_{bp}(\lambda)$
$a(\lambda)$	Total absorption coefficient ( $m^{-1}$ )
$a_B(\lambda)$	Phytoplankton absorption coefficient ( $m^{-1}$ )
$a_{dg}(\lambda)$	Detritus + dissolved absorption coefficient ( $m^{-1}$ )
$a_w(\lambda)$	Seawater absorption coefficient ( $m^{-1}$ )
$a_B^*(\lambda)$	Chlorophyll-specific $a_B(\lambda)$ ( $m^2\ [mg\ Chl-a]^{-1}$ )

References: <sup>1</sup>Uitz et al. (2006), <sup>2</sup>Hirata et al. (2008), <sup>3</sup>Brewin et al. (2010), <sup>4</sup>Hirata et al. (2011), <sup>5</sup>Hirata et al. (2008b), <sup>6</sup>Loisel et al. (2006), <sup>7</sup>Kostadinov et al. (2009), <sup>8</sup>Ciotti & Bricaud (2006), <sup>9</sup>Ciotti et al. (2002), <sup>10</sup>Mouw & Yoder (2010), <sup>11</sup>Devred et al. (2011).

From Brewin *et al.* Chapter 4: Detection of Phytoplankton Size Structure by Remote Sensing. In Sathyendranath et al. Phytoplankton Functional Types from Space. IOCCG Report 14, in prep.

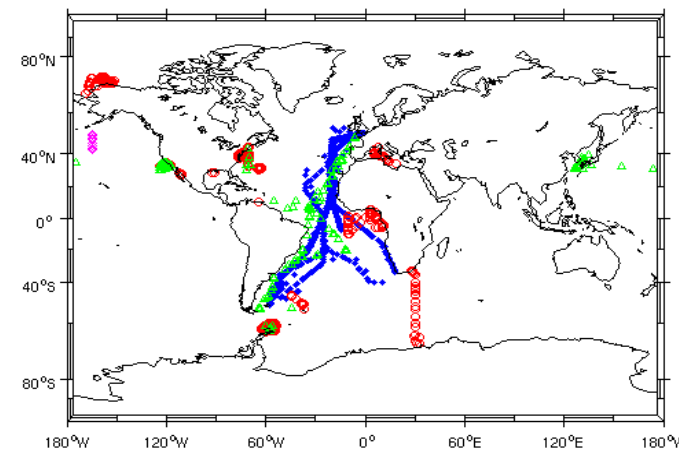
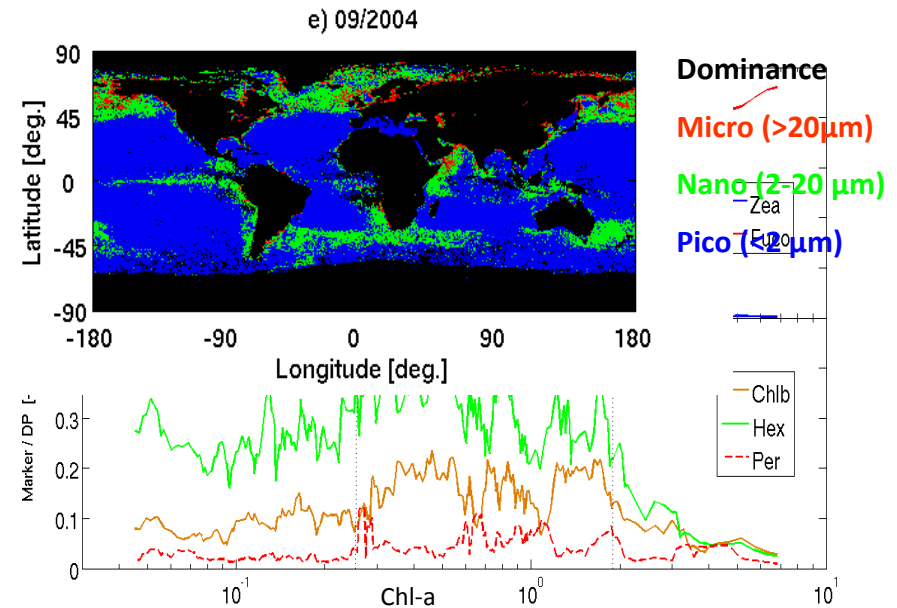
# **Chlorophyll or absorption abundance-based approaches to size and PFT fractionation**



# Hirata et al. 2008. Dominant size class

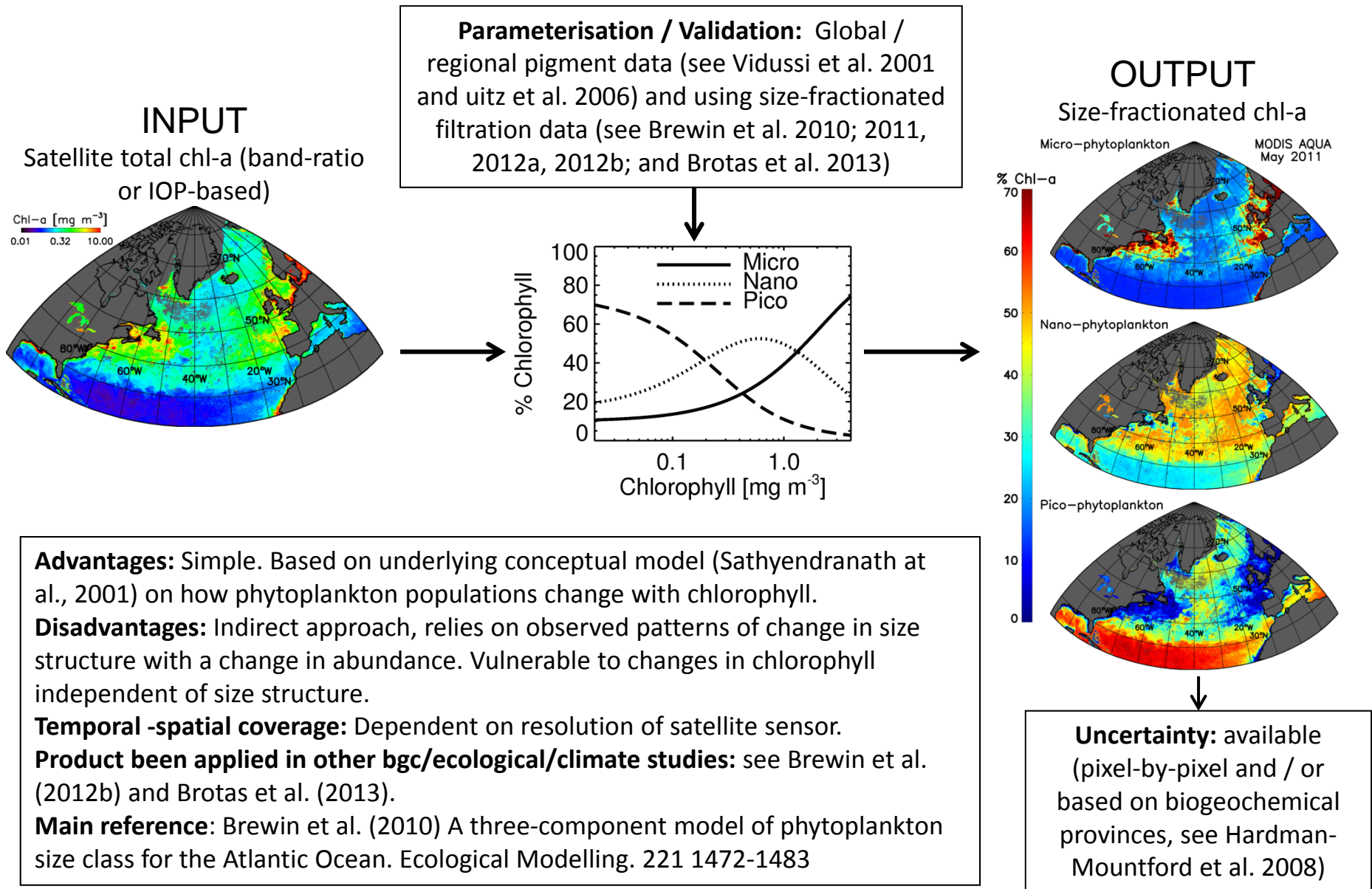
- Phytoplankton pigment composition related to Chl
- Detect size class from Chl biomass
- Also holds for optical absorption

Global Pigment/Optics Data Set  
AMT (PML)  
SeaBass (NASA, various contributors)  
Oshoro (Hokkaido Univ, NOAA)  
NOMAD (NASA, various contributors)  
(N=5570)



Hirata et al.,  
2008 Rem.  
Sens. Env.

# Brewin et al.: Relationship between total chlorophyll and phytoplankton size structure based on conceptual model of Sathyendranath et al. (2001)



# Hirata et al. (2011). Phytoplankton Functional Types for model comparisons

**Input:** Only Chla or  $a_{ph}$ (443nm) derived from OC (L2/L3)

OC-PFT ver. 1.0/1.1

**Output:** Chla [ $mg/m^3$ ] and percentage [%] of Microplankton, Nanoplankton, Picoplankton, Diatoms, Haptophytes (Prymnesiophytes), Green Algae, Pico-Eukaryotes, Prokaryotes, Prochlorococcus sp.

**Estimated uncertainties:**  $< \sim 30\%$

**Advantage:**

- a. many groups of phytoplankton groups to be retrieved (3 size classes + 5 groups).
- b. Quantified outputs (pigment biomass in [ $mg/m^3$ ] or relative abundance in [%]).

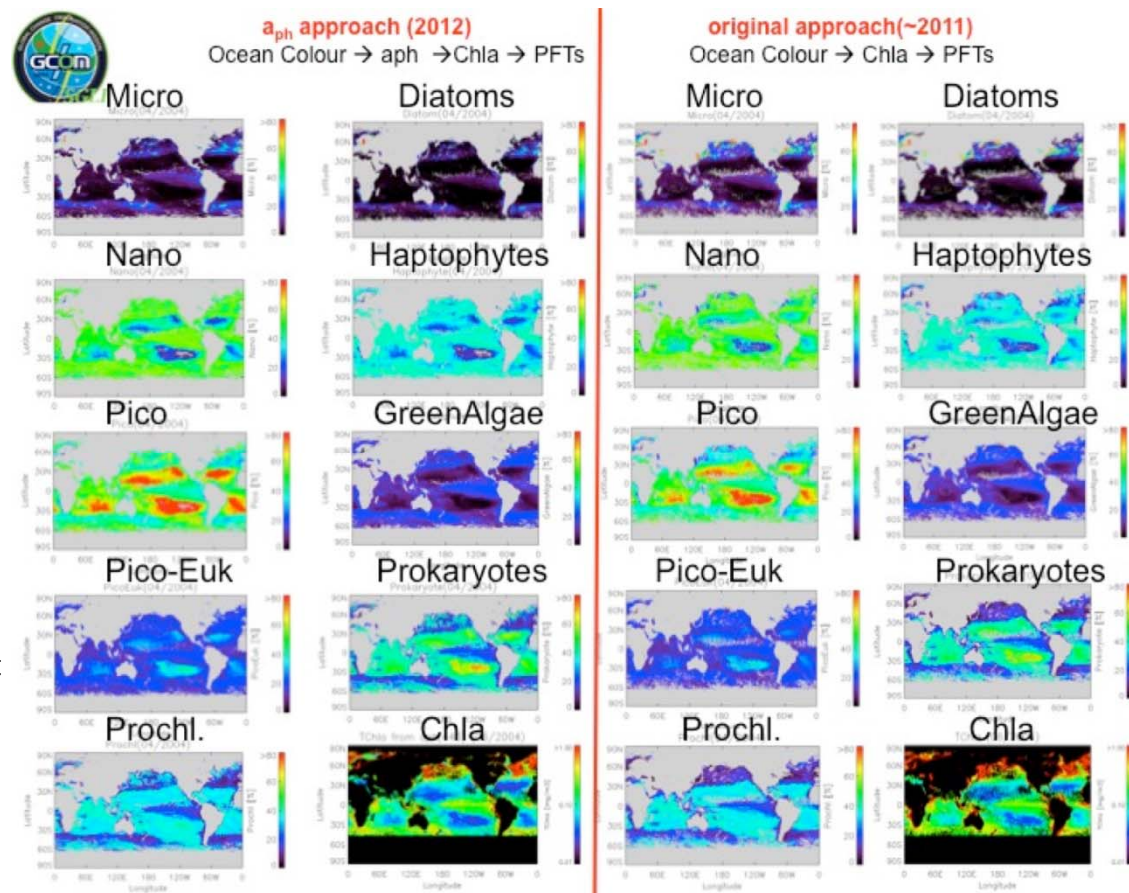
**Disadvantage(?):**

- a. Empirical relationships involved
- b. May not be applied to shelf- and coastal waters

**Spatio-Temporal coverage:** Sensor resolution dependent

**Main Reference:**

Hirata, T., N.J. Hardman-Mountford, R.J.W. Brewin, J. Aiken, R. Barlow, K. Suzuki, T. Isada, E. Howell, T. Hashioka, M. Aita-Noguchi, Y. Yamanaka, Biogeosciences, 8, 311-327, 2011



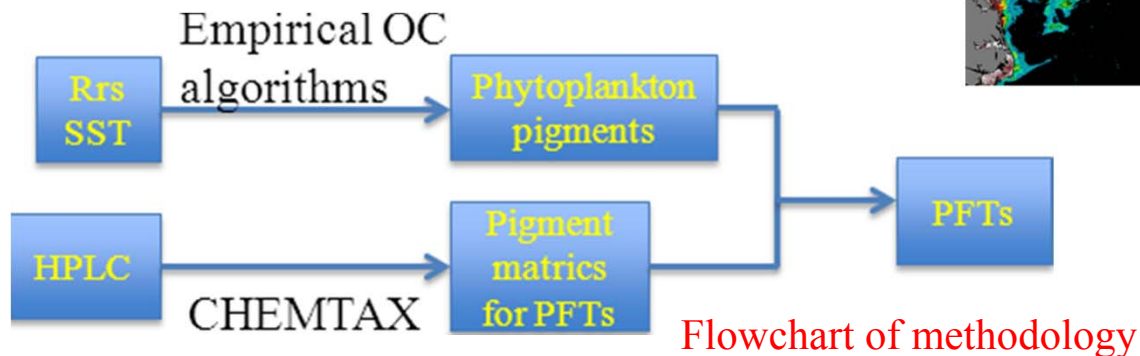
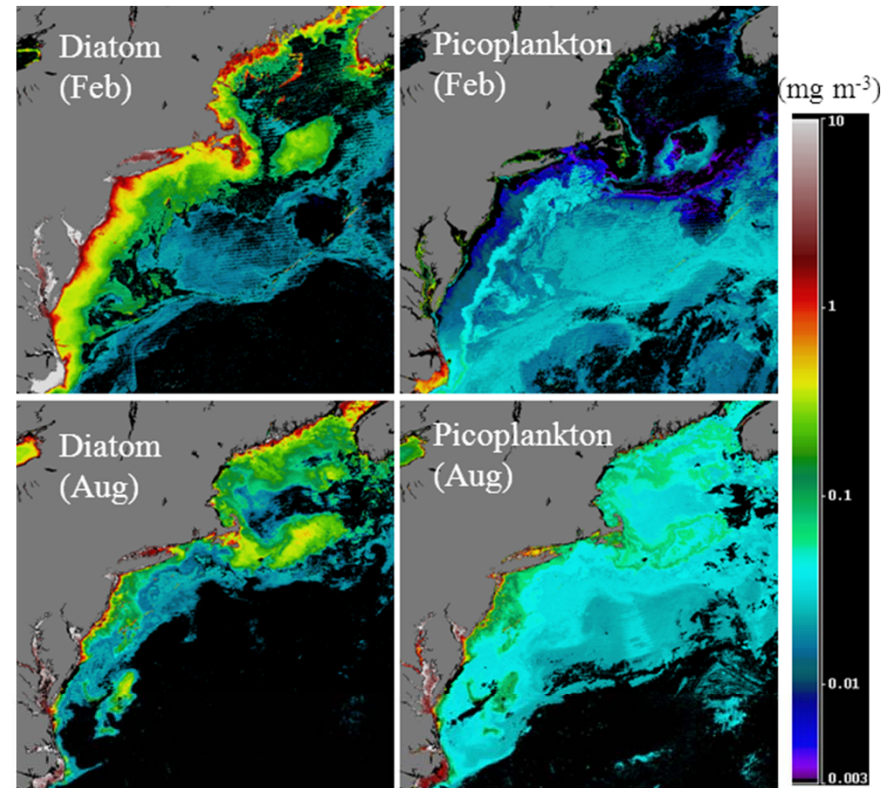
Quantification of many phytoplankton groups

**Applications:**

- a. Rousseaux et al. Satellite views of global phytoplankton community distributions using an empirical algorithm and a numerical model, Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 1083-1109, 2013
- b. Hashioka et al. Phytoplankton competition during the spring bloom in four phytoplankton functional type models (submitted)
- c. Palacz et al. Distribution of phytoplankton functional types in high-nitrate low-chlorophyll waters in a new diagnostic ecological indicator model (submitting)

# PFTs from space in the U.S. northeast coast

- Empirical ocean color algorithms were developed for pigments (Chl *a*, *b*, *c*, fucoxanthin, zeaxanthin, etc.) in the U.S. northeast coast.
- Field HPLC pigments were related to PFTs by chemotaxonomy (CHEMTAX).
- Combining the above two approaches to determine PFTs from space.
- The distributional patterns in PFTs are oceanographically reasonable, and agree well with previous works by cell counts.



Examples: Abundances (in TChl *a*) of diatoms and picoplankton in the U.S. northeast coast in Feb and Aug.

# Spectral approaches: Reflectance Anomalies

# The PHYSAT approach

Inter Deposit Digital Number (License APP) : IDDN.FR.001.330003.000.S.P.2012.000.30300.

-> Based on Radiances anomalies : Removed the first order Chl a effect on the signal :

$$Ra(\lambda) = nLw(\lambda) / nLw_{ref}(\lambda, \text{Chl } a) + \text{In situ observations (pigments, counts, cytometry...)}$$

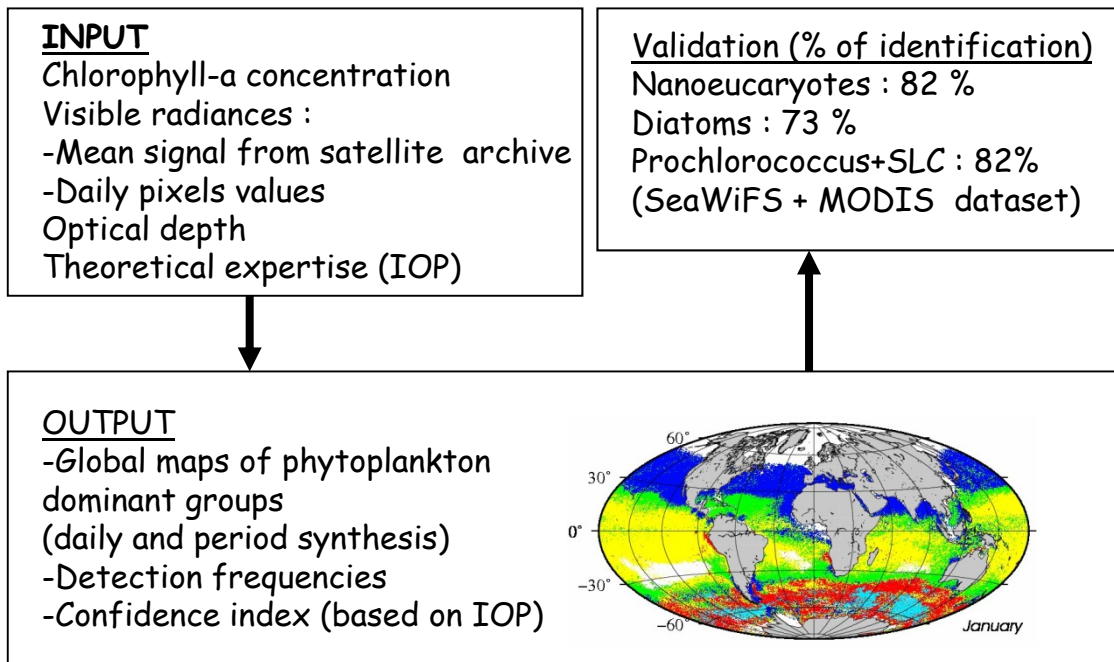
-> Main publications (methodology) :

Alvain S., et al. Moulin C., Dandonneau Y., and Breon F.M, *Remote sensing of phytoplankton groups in case 1 waters from global SeaWiFS imagery*. DSR I- 52, (2005).

Alvain S., Moulin C., Dandonneau Y., Loisel H., *Seasonal distribution and succession of dominant phytoplankton groups in the global ocean: A satellite view*, Global Biogeochemical Cycles, 22, GB3001, (2008)

Alvain S., Loisel H. and D. Dessailly, *Theoretical analysis of ocean color radiances anomalies and implications for phytoplankton groups detection in case 1 waters*, Optics Express Vol. 20, N°2, (2012).

**DATA AVAILABLE HERE : <http://log.univ-littoral.fr/Physat>**



-> Some Applications :

-Alvain S. et al. *Rapid climatic driven shifts of diatoms at high latitudes*, Remote Sensing of Environment, (2013).

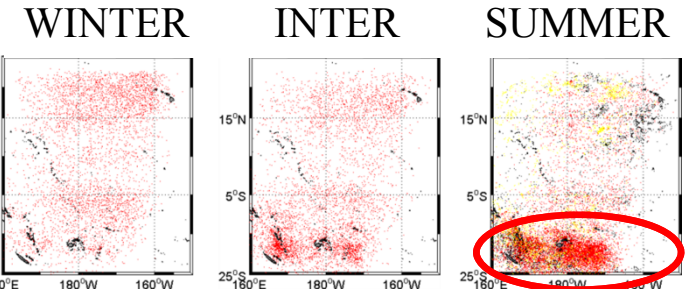
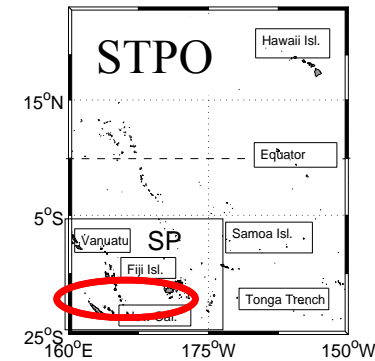
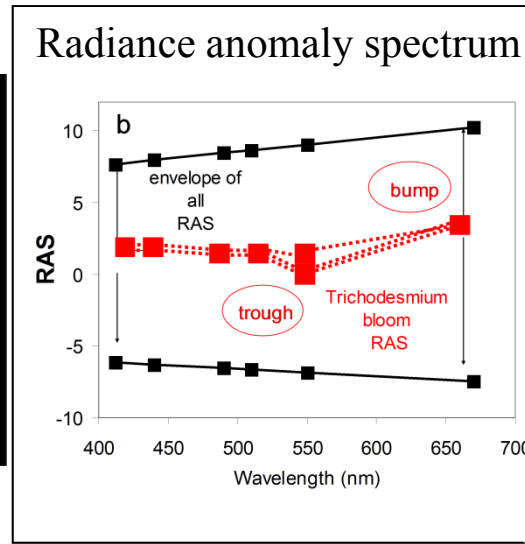
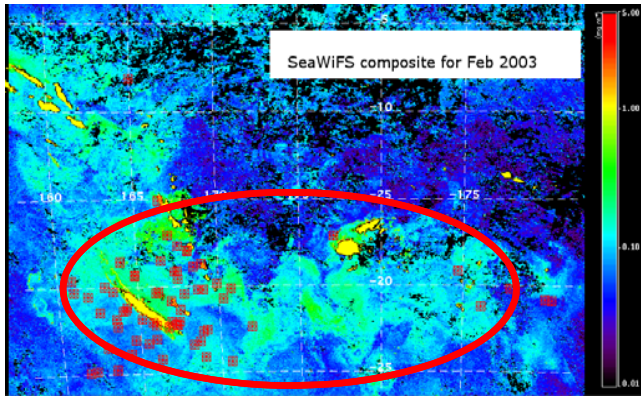
-Demarcq H. et al. (2011) ; *Monitoring marine phytoplankton seasonality from space*, Remote Sensing of Environment RSE-08090

-D'Ovidio F, et al., *Fluid dynamical niches of phytoplankton types* PNAS, Volume : 107 Issue : 43 Pages : 18366-18370 (2010)

-Alvain S. et al. *A species-dependent bio-optical model of case I waters* for global ocean color processing. Deep Sea Res. I, 53, 917-925, (2006).

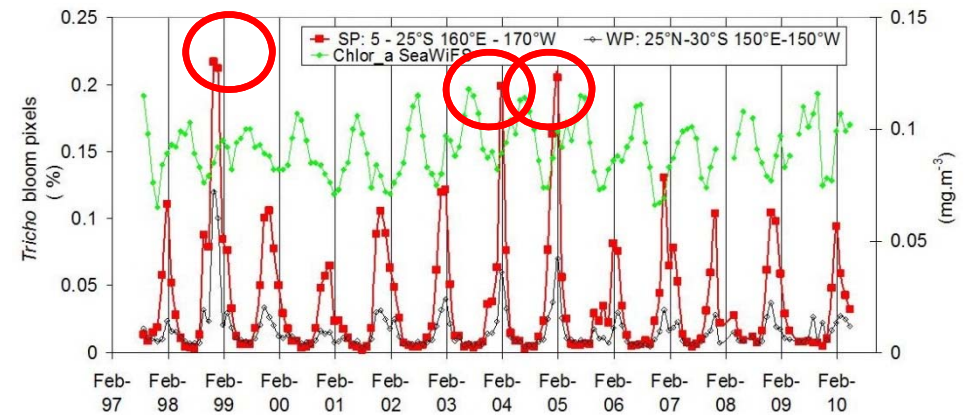
# TRICHOSAT: *Trichodesmium* blooms in the STPO

Seawifs image & Tricho obs



- Selection around New Caledonia and Vanuatu : 15°S-25°S
- Selection in SUMMER (max in February 1999, 2003, 2004)
- Complementary of the PHYSAT approach !
- Weakness: detects only surface blooms, low number of pixels (0.1%), works in the South Tropical Pacific Ocean

1997-2010 SeaWiFS series



Dupouy et al., *Biogeosciences*, 8, 1-17 (2011).

# Spectral approaches: Absorption-based



# Deriving a phytoplankton size factor from satellite reflectances

## Reference:

CIOTTI, A.M. and A. BRICAUD. 2006. Retrievals of a size parameter for phytoplankton and spectral light absorption by Colored Detrital Matter from water-leaving radiances at SeaWiFS channels in a continental shelf region off Brazil. *L&O-Methods*, 4: 237 - 253.

## INPUTS

Satellite reflectances at  
412, 443, 490, 510 nm  
(SeaWiFS channels)



## OUTPUTS

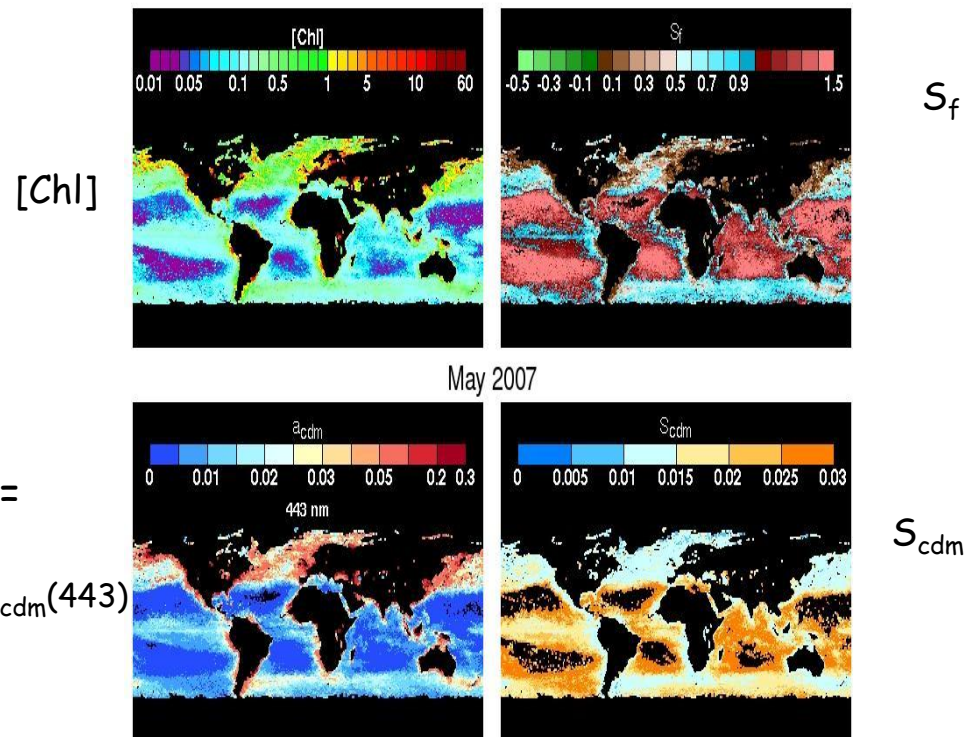
- Dimensionless size factor  $S_f$ , varying between 0 (100% micro) and 1 (100% pico)
- Absorption coefficient of CDM ( $a_{\text{cdm}}(443)$ )
- Spectral slope of CDM absorption ( $S_{\text{cdm}}$ )

## General principle:

$S_f$  is estimated from the spectral shape of norm. phytoplankton absorption (according to the package effect)  
Satellite reflectances inverted into total absorption coefficients  $a_{\text{tot}}(\lambda)$  & chl  
Then 3 output variables derived from  $a_{\text{tot}}(\lambda)$  by non-linear optimization using  $a_{\text{ph}}$  ratios which are derived from chl

**Validation** on shelf waters off Brazil : RMSE = 17% between  $S_f$  values estimated from SeaWiFS data and from hyperspectral absorption measured in the field.

**Intercomparison with other methods:** see Brewin et al. 2011



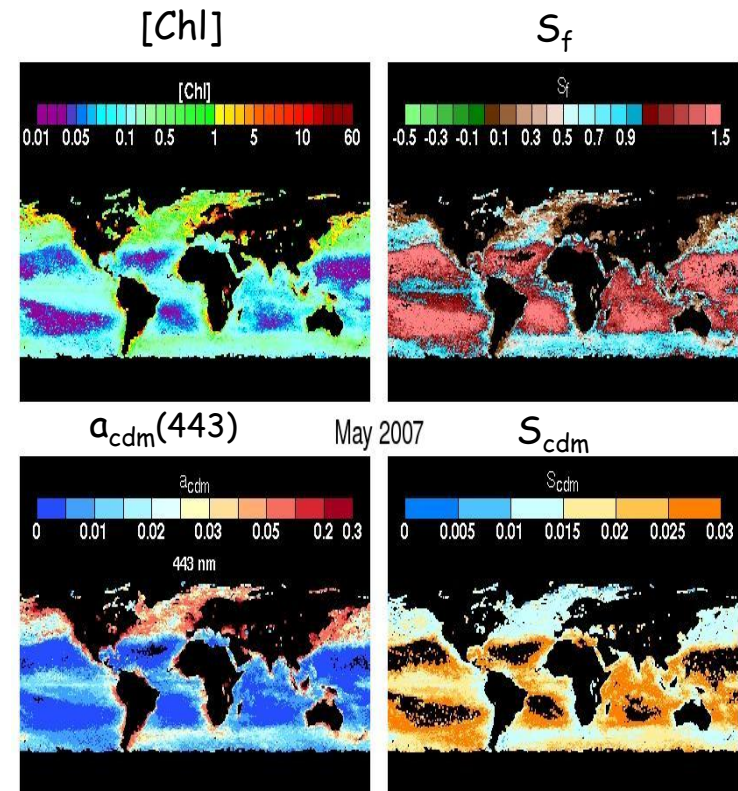
# Deriving a phytoplankton size factor from satellite reflectances

## Reference:

CIOTTI, A.M. and A. BRICAUD. 2006. *L&O-Methods*, 4: 237 - 253.

## Advantages / disadvantages:

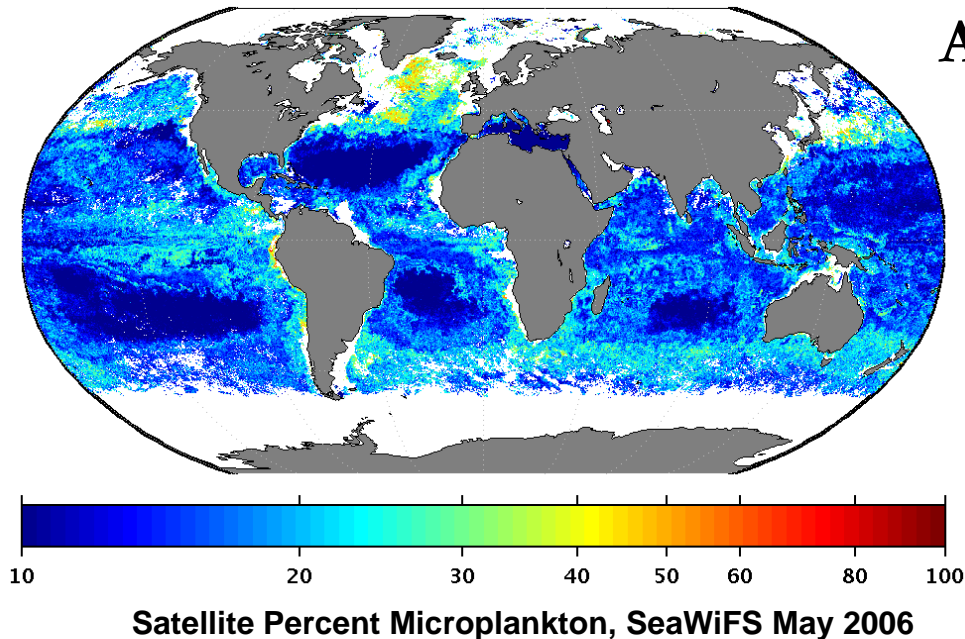
- Spectral-based method: changes in size structure can be detected independently of [Chl] changes
- $S_f$  estimates a continuum of differences in light absorption efficiency, not size fractions *per se*; ranges of sizes can be assumed, but validation is still in progress
- The spectral shape of algal absorption is ruled not only by cell size but also by photoacclimation → source of uncertainty - we are looking for trends in time and space using  $S_f$  residuals
- The inversion of reflectances into non-water absorption coefficients, and therefore  $S_f$  estimates, are difficult in very clear waters ( $S_f$  overestimated)



**Application:** BRICAUD, A., A.M. CIOTTI and B. GENTILI. 2012. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 26, GB1010, doi :10.1029 /2010GB003952.

# Phytoplankton Cell Size: An Absorption Approach Through Look-up Tables

Colleen. B. Mouw and James. A. Yoder (2010)  
Optical determination of phytoplankton size  
composition from global SeaWiFS imagery.  
*JGR* 115, C12018, doi: 10.1029/2010JC006337.



- **Inputs:** RRS, [Chl] and  $a_{\text{CDM}}(443)$
- **Output:** Percent Microplankton
- **Advantages:** Does not assume a direct relationship with chlorophyll. Considers thresholds of sensitivity and the presence of other optically active constituents.
- **Disadvantages:** Retrieves only percent microplankton.
- **Temporal spatial coverage:** Dependent on resolution of sensor.

## Validation:

84% within 1 standard deviation,  
12%, 2 std. dev., 4%, 3 std. dev.

All data:  $r^2 = 0.6$ , RMSE=12.64,  
1 Std. Dev.:  $r^2 = 0.84$ ,  
RMSE=6.35

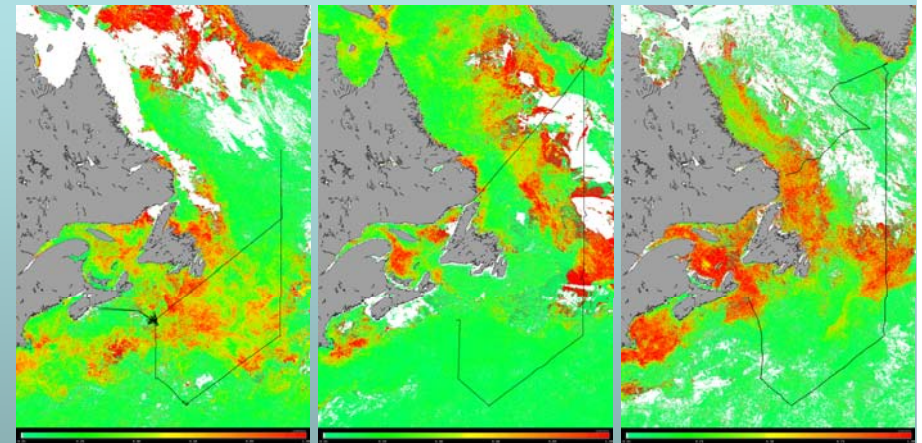
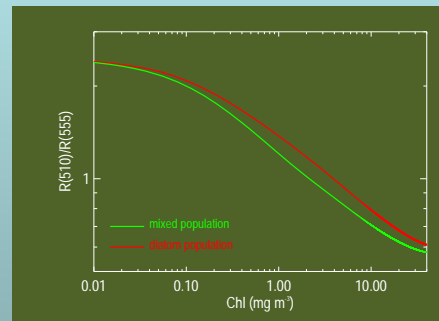
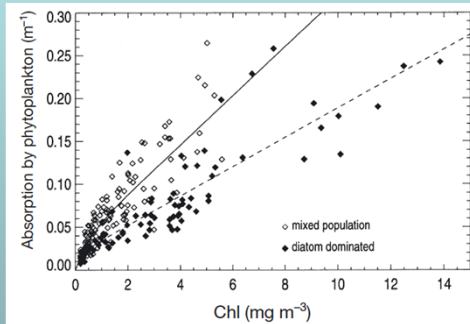
## Sensitivity:

SeaWiFS has the sensitivity to retrieve  $S_{\text{fm}}$   
when: [Chl] 0.05 - 1.75  $\text{mg m}^{-3}$  and  
 $a_{\text{CDM}}(443) < 0.17 \text{ m}^{-1}$

Of decadal mean imagery,  
84% of [Chl] and 99.7% of  $a_{\text{CDM}}(443)$   
fall within thresholds

# Spectrally-resolved approach, from phytoplankton absorption to Diatom (Sathyendranath et al. 2004) and size classes (Sathyendranath et al. 2001, Devred et al. 2006, 2011)

## Pixel-based diatom discrimination using spectral information on absorption of diatoms and other phytoplankton populations

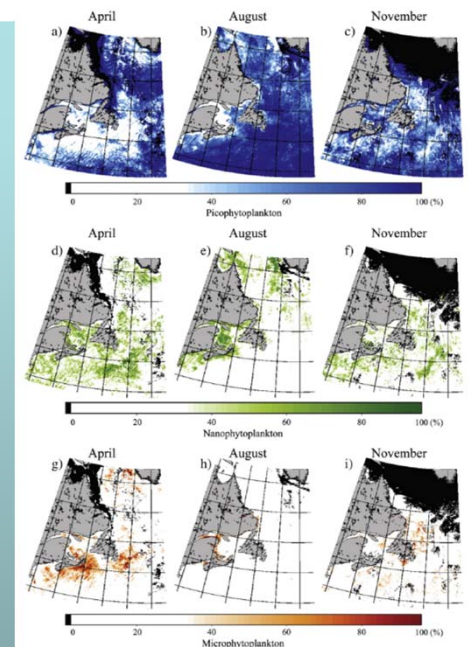
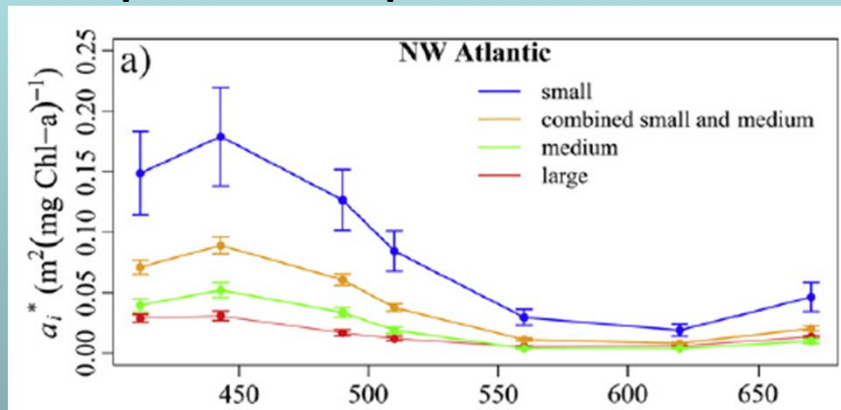


Spring

Summer

Fall

## Two-step inversion scheme using linear combination of specific absorption spectra of pico-, nano and microphytoplankton derived from three-component absorption model

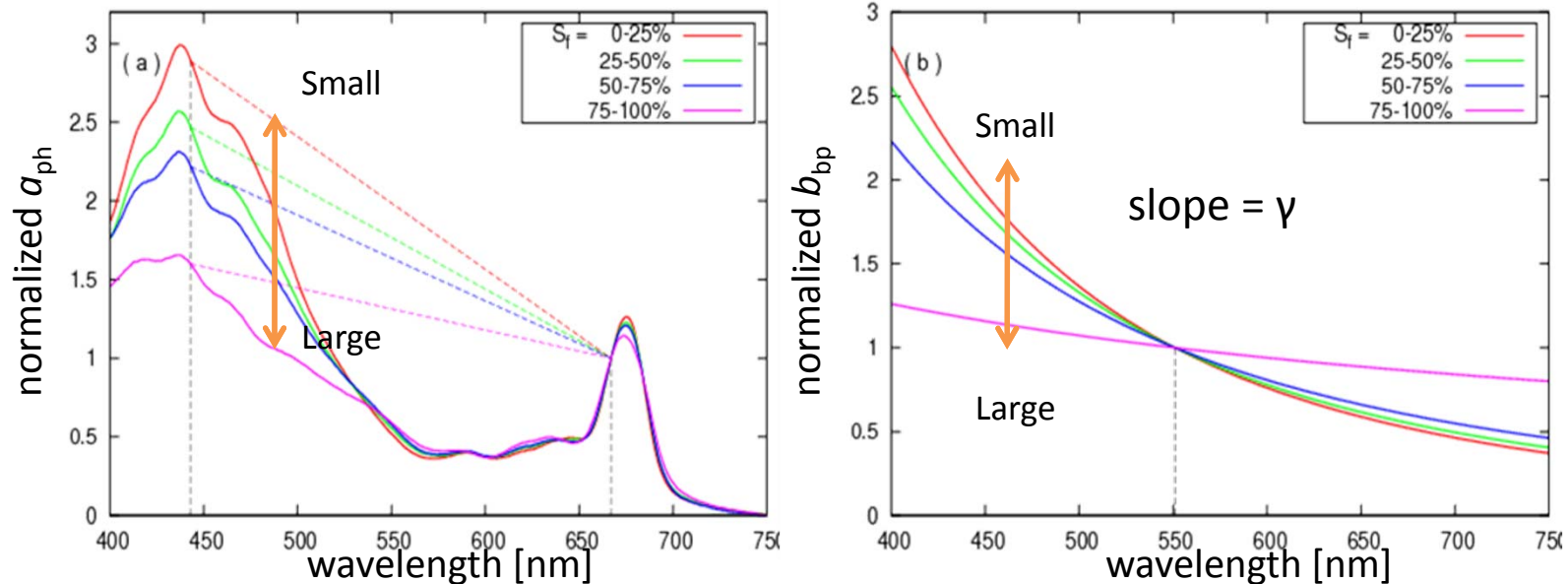


# Phytoplankton Size Discrimination Model

Toru Hirawake et al.

Size Index:  $F_L = [\text{Chla}_{>5\mu\text{m}} / \text{totalChla}] \times 100 [\%]$

spectral shape of absorption and backscattering coefficients



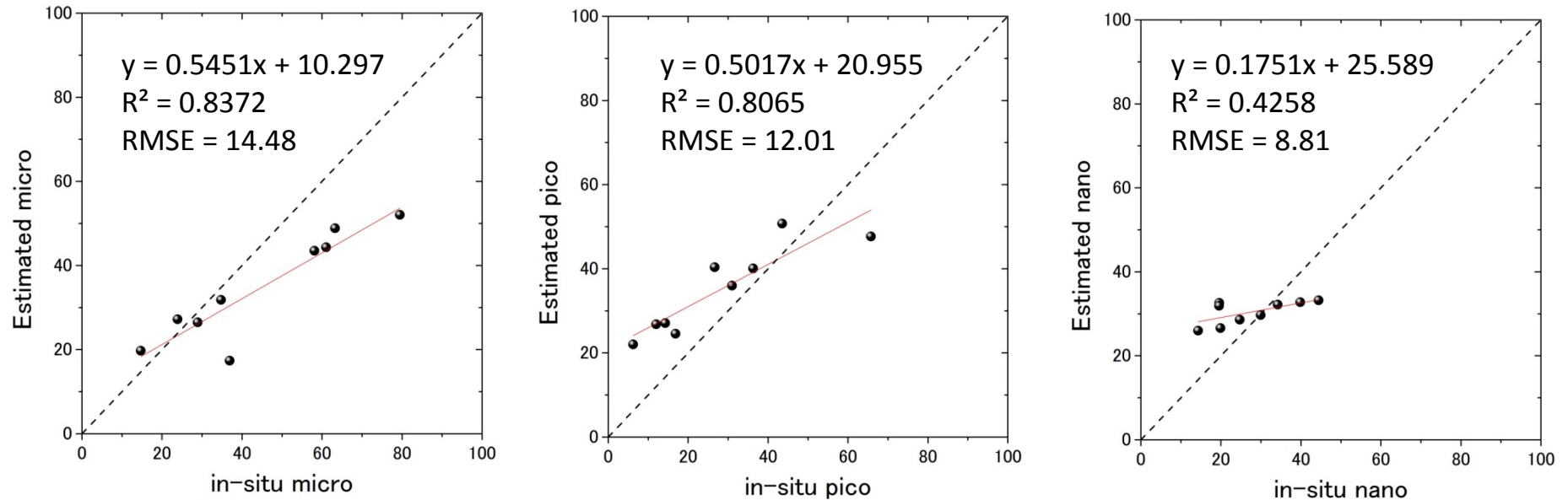
parameterized  $F_L$  with a light absorption ratio,  $a_{ph}(443)/a_{ph}(667)$ , and spectral slope of backscattering spectrum,  $\gamma$ :

$$F_L = \frac{100}{1 + \exp[-(p \times a_{ph}(443)/a_{ph}(667) + q \times \gamma + r)]} [\%]$$

Rrs  $\rightarrow$  Optical model  
 $\rightarrow a_{ph}, b_{bp}$

Size Discrimination Model (SDM)  
 Fujiwara et al. 2011, BG

## Validation of the algorithm with *in situ* IOP



$$\text{Microplankton (\%)} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(-\left(-1.34 \times \gamma - 2.41 \times \frac{a_{ph}(490)}{a_{ph}(510)} + 5.54\right)\right)} \times 100$$

$$\text{Picoplankton (\%)} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(-\left(1.08 \times \gamma + 1.67 \times \frac{a_{ph}(490)}{a_{ph}(510)} - 5.23\right)\right)} \times 100$$

Toru Hirawake et al.

$$\text{Nanoplankton (\%)} = 100 - (\text{Microplankton}) - (\text{Picoplankton})$$

# The Partial Least Squares regression (PLS) approach

**Reference:** Organelli E., Bricaud A., Antoine D., Uitz J. (2013). Multivariate approach for the retrieval of phytoplankton size structure from measured light absorption spectra in the Mediterranean Sea (BOUSSOLE site). *Applied Optics*, 52(11), 2257-2273.

## INPUT

Fourth-derivative spectra of  
PARTICLE or PHYTOPLANKTON  
light absorption (400-700 nm)



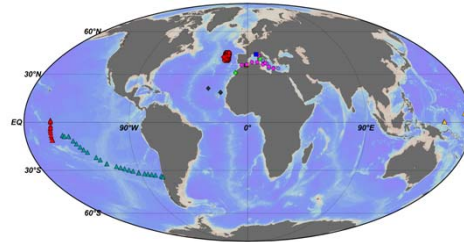
## OUTPUT (in $\text{mg m}^{-3}$ )

[TChl *a*]  
[DP] ([Micro]+[Nano]+[Pico])  
[Micro] ( $1.41 \cdot [\text{Fuco}] + 1.41 \cdot [\text{Perid}]$ )  
[Nano] ( $1.27 \cdot [19\text{'-HF}] + 0.35 \cdot [19\text{'-BF}] + 0.60 \cdot [\text{Allo}]$ )  
[Pico] ( $1.01 \cdot [\text{TChl } b] + 0.86 \cdot [\text{Zea}]$ )

## PLS-MODELS development:

### TRAINING (data from First Optical Depth)

1. GLOBAL data set (n=716): data from various locations of the world's oceans;
2. MedCAL data set (n=239): data from the Mediterranean Sea only.

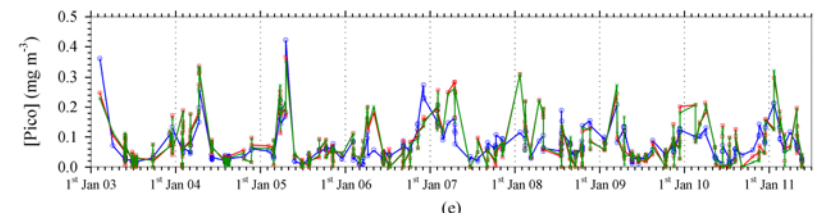
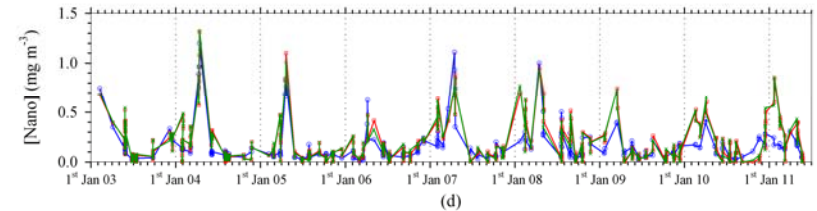
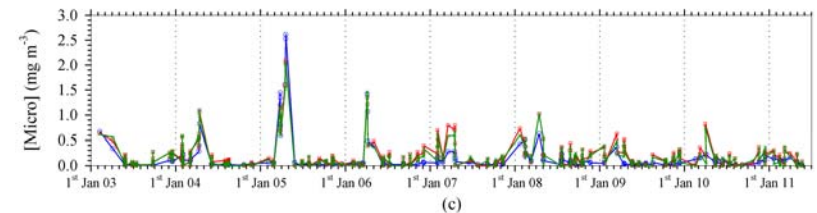
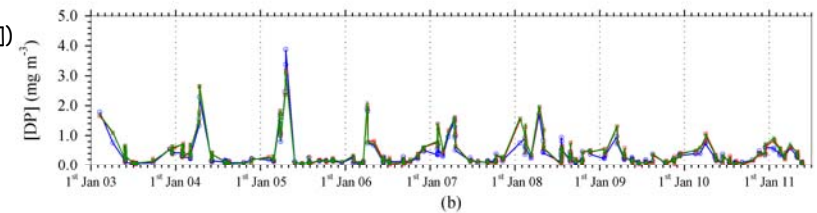
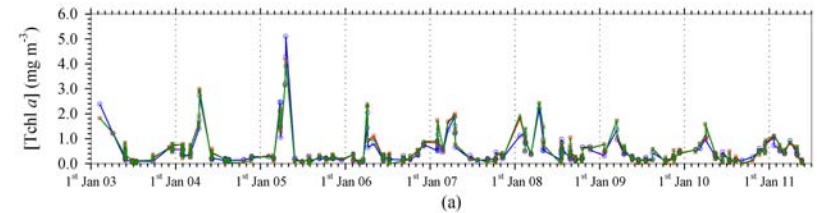


### TEST (data from First Optical Depth)

BOUSSOLE time series (2003-2011; n=484)

## Results, advantages and disadvantages:

1. Accurate TChl *a* and size structure retrievals over the BOUSSOLE time series (analysis of seasonal dynamics!);
2. Insensitivity to NAP and CDOM absorption (it could be extended to reflectance-derived products!);
3. High prediction accuracy of the regional data set (MedCAL).

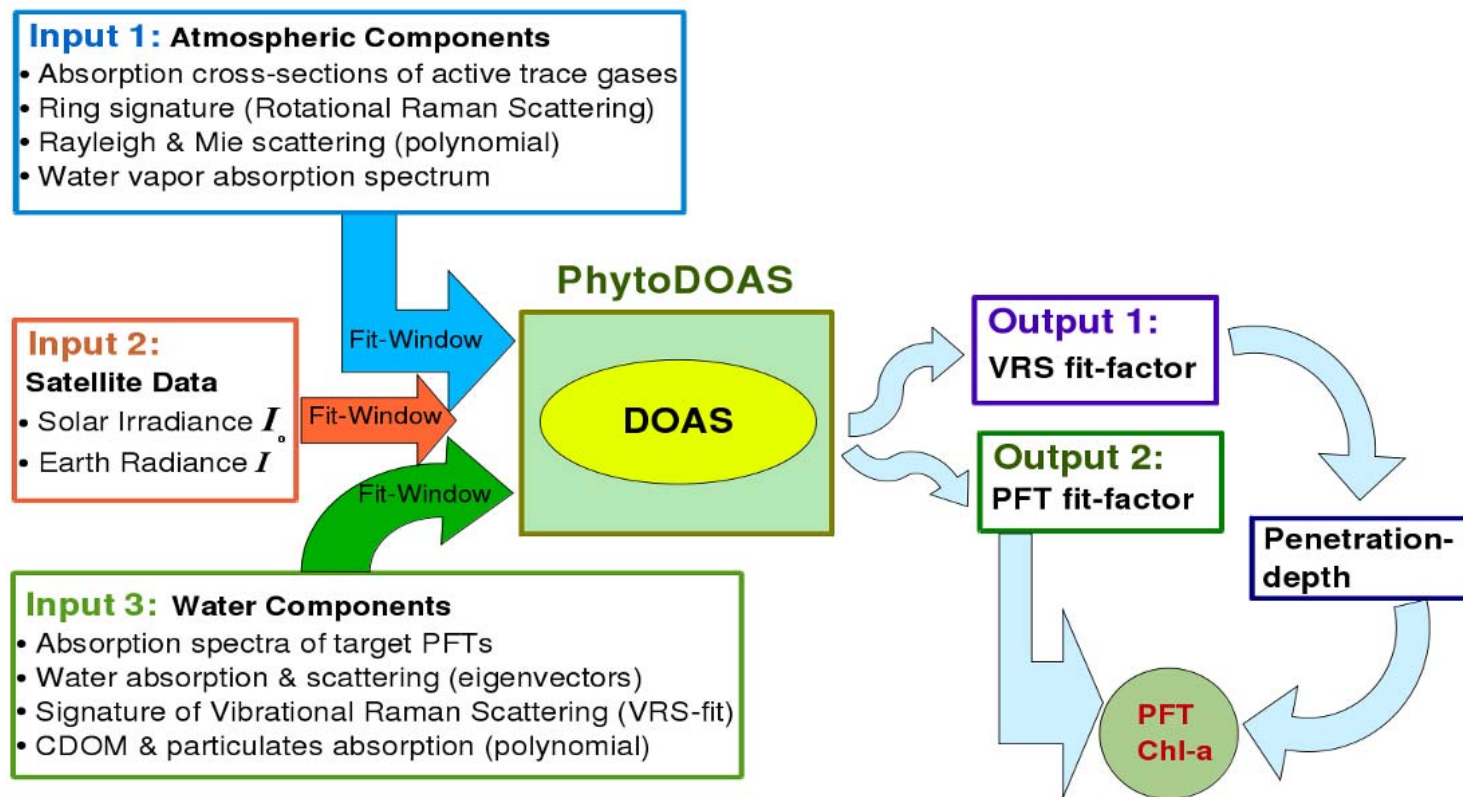


— HPLC      —  $a_p(\lambda)$  PLS model      —  $a_{phy}(\lambda)$  PLS model

# AWI Four Phytoplankton Groups with PhytoDOAS

Bracher et al. Biogeosciences 2009; Sadeghi et al. Ocean Science 2012

Hyperspectral **SCIAMACHY/ENVISAT** data: 240-2400 nm, <1 nm resol, 30km x 60km  
**Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS)** at 430-530 nm:



**PFT SCIAMACHY data 2002-2012**

**Now: application to GOME-2 (2007-, 2012-, 2018-)**

**Future: OMI (2004-), Sentinel-5-P, S-4, S-5 (2015-, 2019-, 2020-): daily – 7 km x 7 km pixel**



# Biomass of Four Phytoplankton Groups with PhytoDOAS

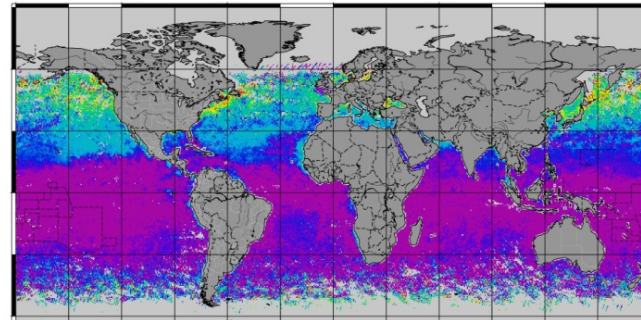
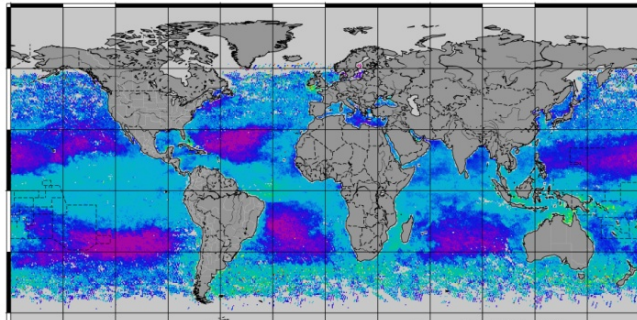
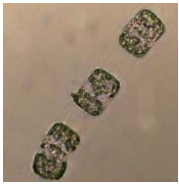


Bracher et al. BG 2009; Sadeghi et al. OS 2012

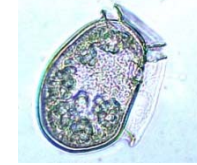


## Mean Chl-a Mar 2007

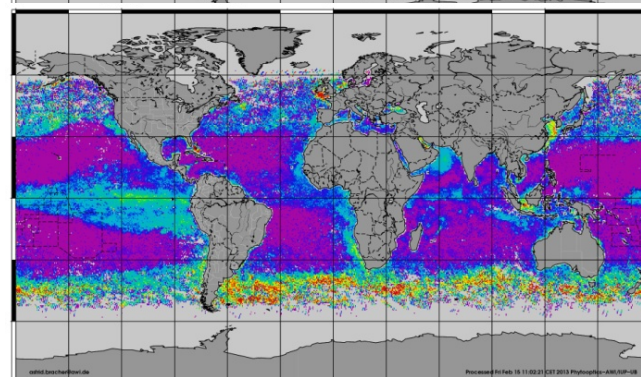
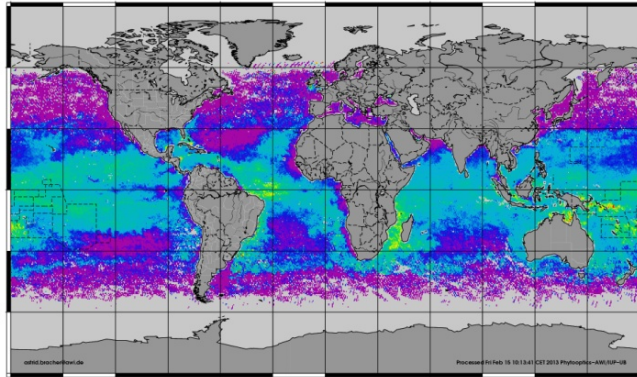
Diatoms



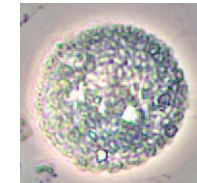
Dinoflagellates



Cyano-  
bacteria



Coccolitho-  
phores



0.005 0.010 0.050 0.100 0.200 0.300 0.400 0.500 0.600 0.700 1.000 chl-a conc. [mg/m<sup>3</sup>]

Sensitivity tested with RTM SCIATRAN simulations: at 0.1-30 mg/m<sup>3</sup> chl-a within 15%

In-situ validation diatoms and cyanos: within 30%

Coccolithophore products agree well with MODIS PIC, ok with NOBM PFT, good with RGB bloom detection

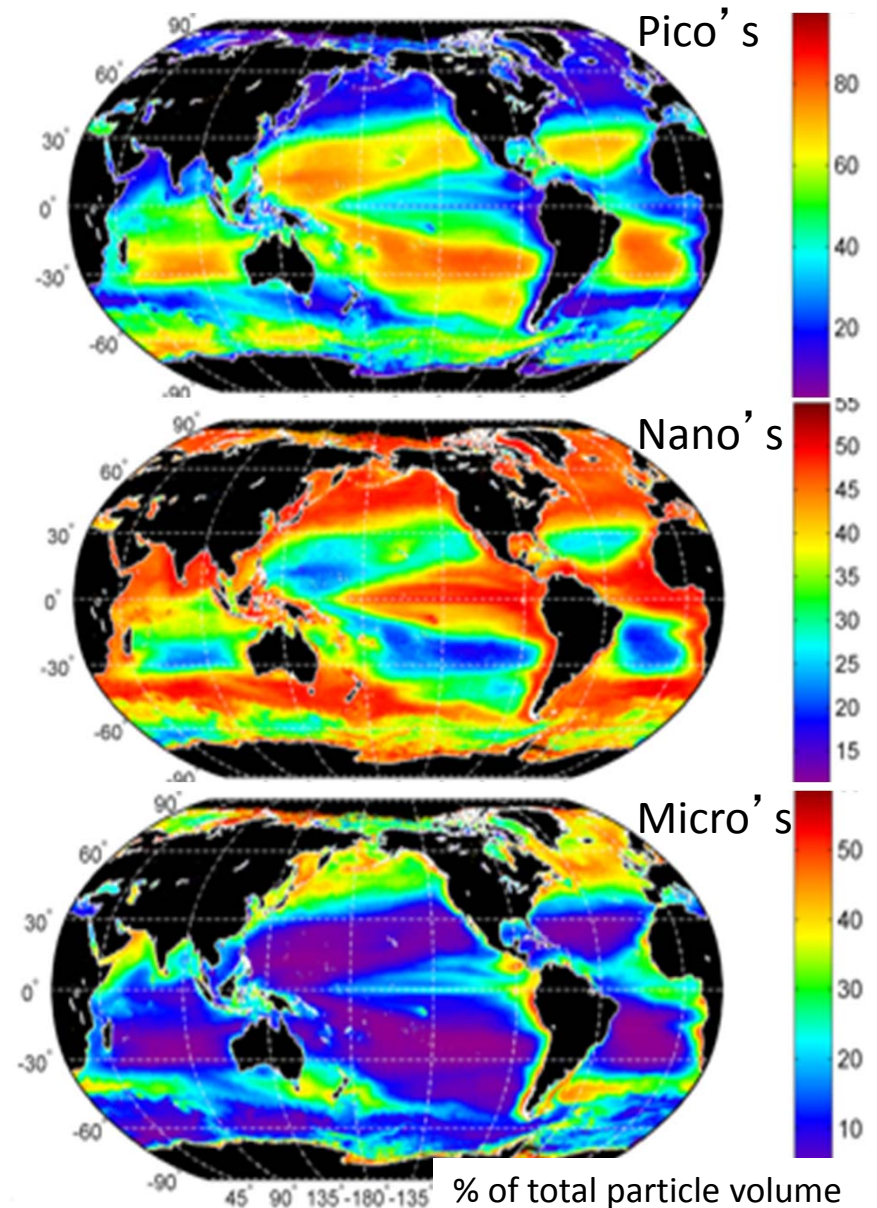
Application: coccolithophores (Sadeghi et al. BG 2012); cyanobacteria (Ye et al. 2012)

# **Spectral approach using backscatter: Particle (not phytoplankton only) size distribution**

# Particle Size Distribution (PSD) from Satellite

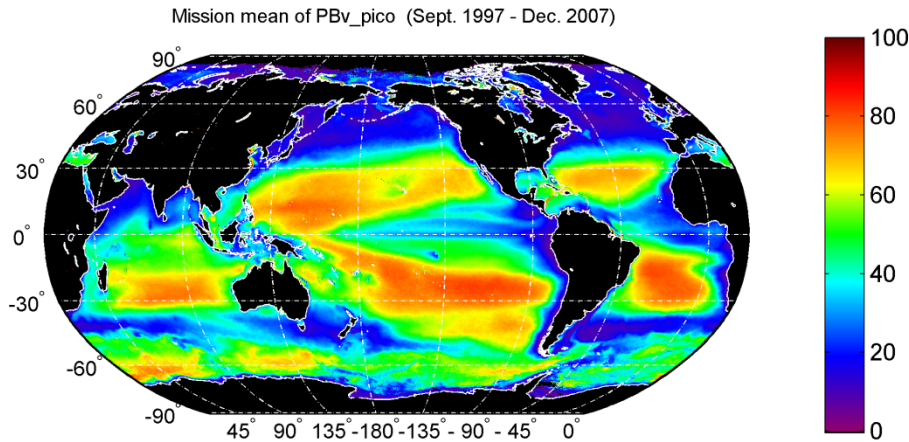
Kostadinov, Siegel & Maritorena [2009] JGR

- Mie theory is used to model PSD as a function of spectral backscatter
- The parameters of a power-law PSD are retrieved
- Particle volumes can be partitioned into pico-, nano- & micro-sizes
- Patterns follow expectations
  - Pico's dominate oligotrophic regions
  - Micro's are found only in high latitudes & upwelling regions
- Size based approach for assessing plankton functional type

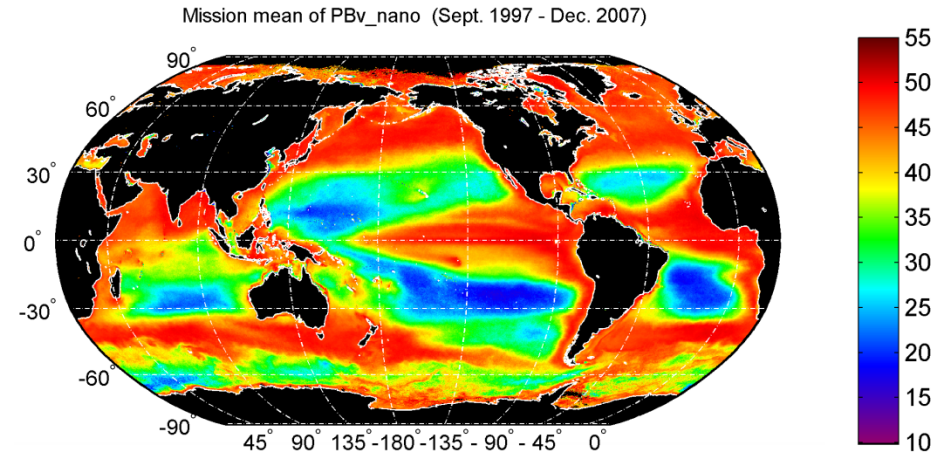


# SeaWiFS PFT's = f(PSD slope)

## Picoplankton % (0.5 $\mu\text{m}$ to 2 $\mu\text{m}$ )



## Nanoplankton % (2 $\mu\text{m}$ to 20 $\mu\text{m}$ )

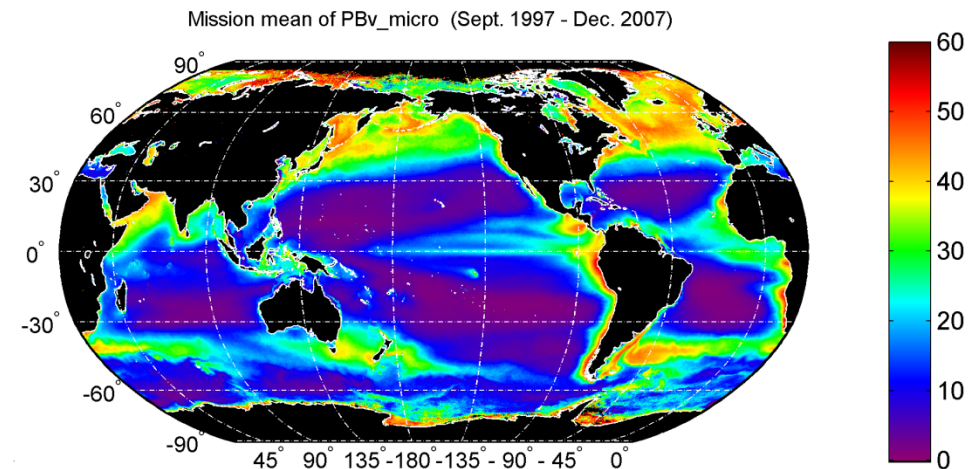


Pico's dominate oligotrophic ocean (>90%)

Nano's in transition regions (~50%)

Micro's only found in upwelling zones & high latitudes (<60%)

## Microplankton % (20 $\mu\text{m}$ to 50 $\mu\text{m}$ )



# Summary

**Variety of approaches shown to get multiple phytoplankton size class (PSC) or functional type (PFT)**

**Techniques to retrieve the abundance or spectral differences of PSC or PFTS range from**

- fast and simple (abundance) versus getting direct physiological interpretation via spectral variations**
- purely empirically to physical (accounting for imprints of PSC or PFTs on radiative transfer)**

**Most techniques shown were global**

**Applications of using these satellite PFTs have started, mostly for evaluation of biogeochemical/ecosystem models, also inferring atmospheric emissions**

**In order to become operational, these algorithms have to be validated, intercompared and adapted to new sensors in a concise way**