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# WHY DO WE TREAT WASTEWATER?

**Wastewater Treatment Technology- course**  
Faculty of Environmental Engineering, Wrocław  
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# Plan

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1. Organic compounds
2. Eutrophication
3. Control questions

# **Organic compounds**

# How do we define organic compounds in wastewater treatment technology?

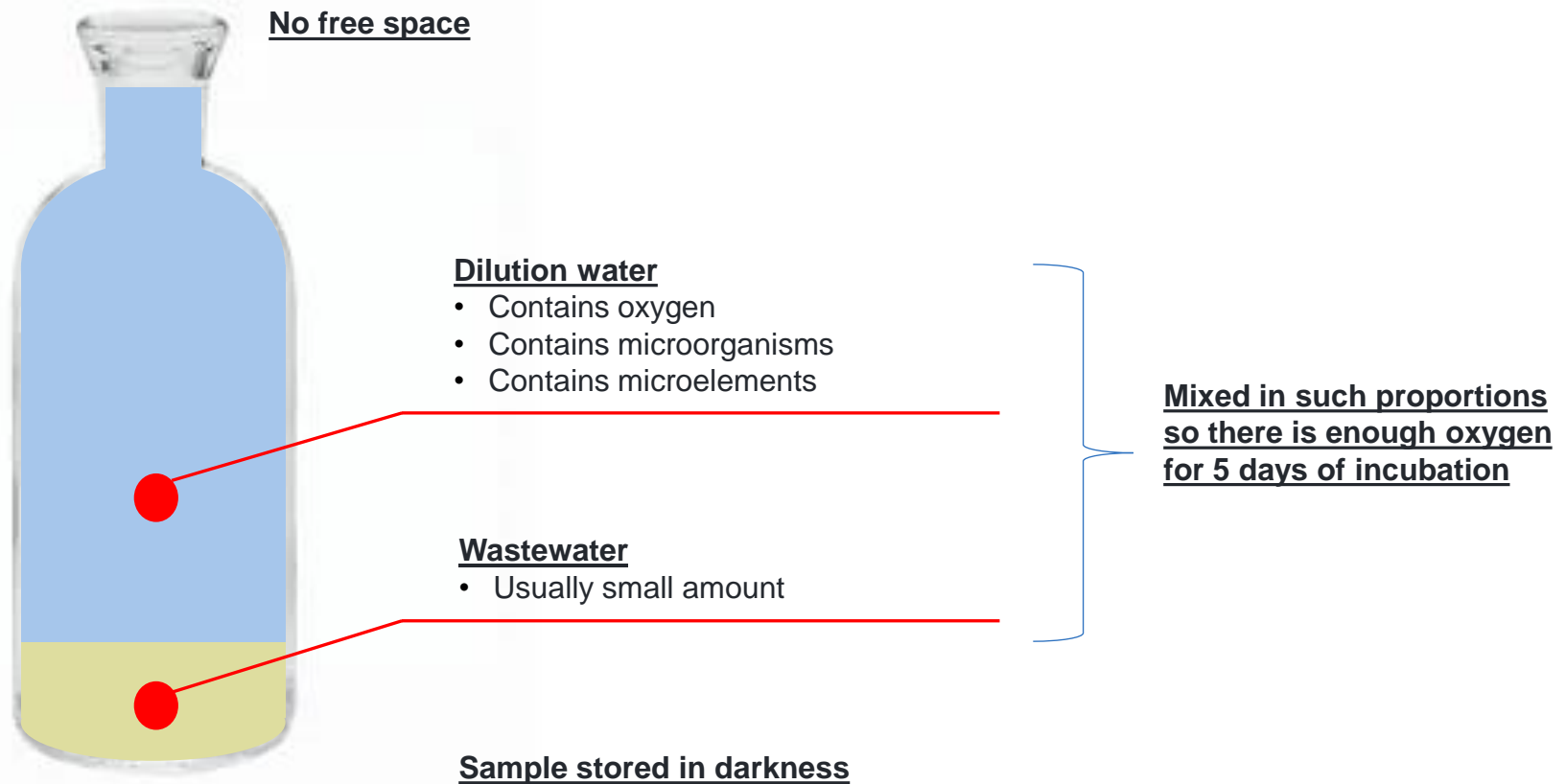
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The content of organic compounds is defined by the amount of oxygen required for their oxidation to  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

This means that the content of organic compounds is not defined directly.

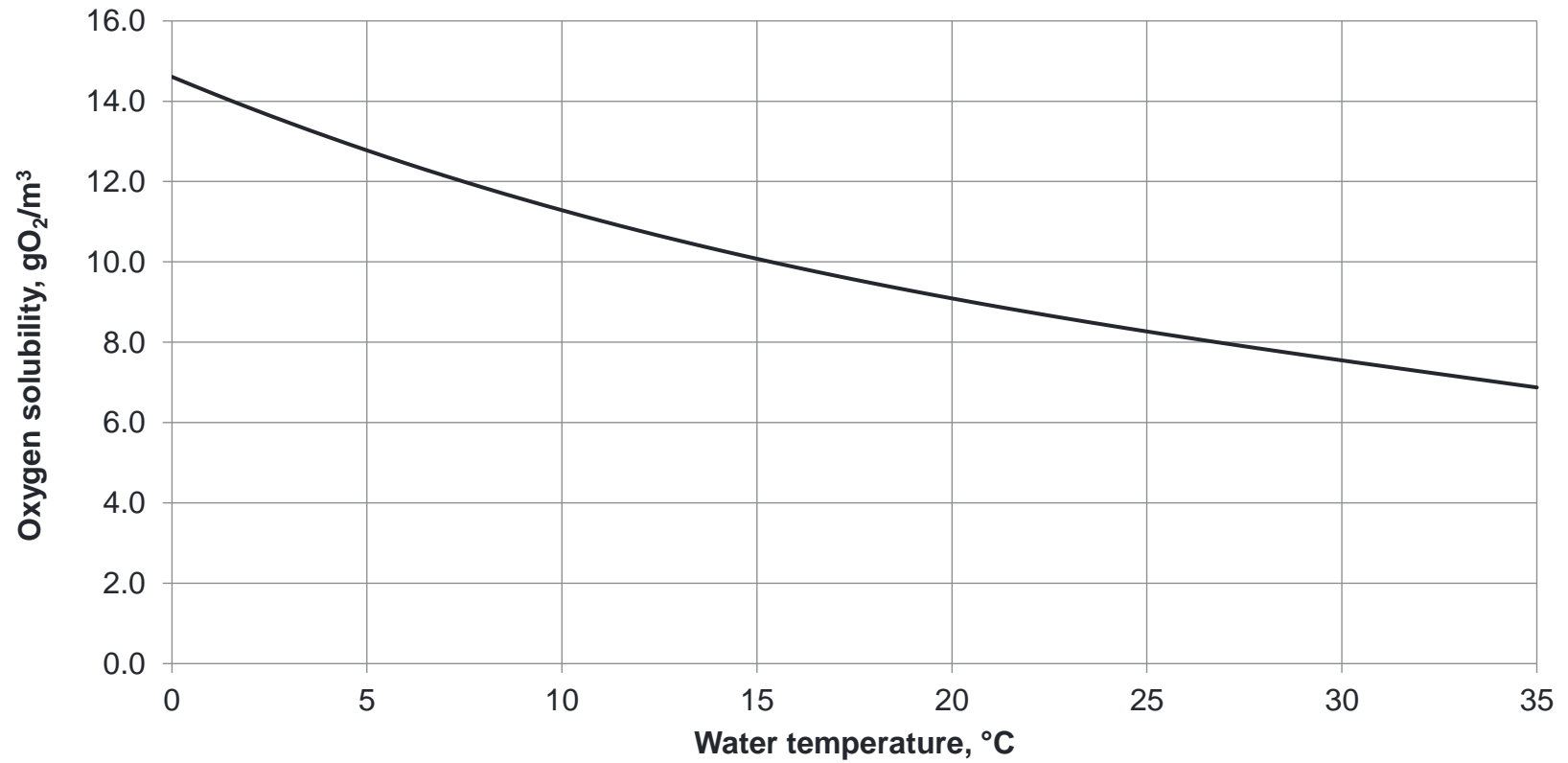
# How do we define organic compounds in wastewater treatment technology?

BOD<sub>5</sub>



# Oxygen solubility

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# How do we define organic compounds in wastewater treatment technology?

BOD<sub>5</sub>

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BOD<sub>5</sub> of a sample is the difference between the initial and final oxygen concentration, multiplied by the dilution factor.

Example:

Dilution 1:100

Initial O<sub>2</sub> concentration = 8 g O<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>

Final O<sub>2</sub> concentration = 2 g O<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>

BOD<sub>5</sub> = (8-2) \* 100 = 600 g O<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>3</sup>

BOD<sub>5</sub> is a measure of the concentration of biodegradable organic compounds in wastewater.

# How do we define organic compounds in wastewater treatment technology?

## COD

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COD is a measure of the total content of organic compounds in wastewater (both biodegradable and non-biodegradable).



# Impact of Organic Compounds Discharge on the Environment

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## Mechanism

# Biogens



# Biogens

## Eutrophication

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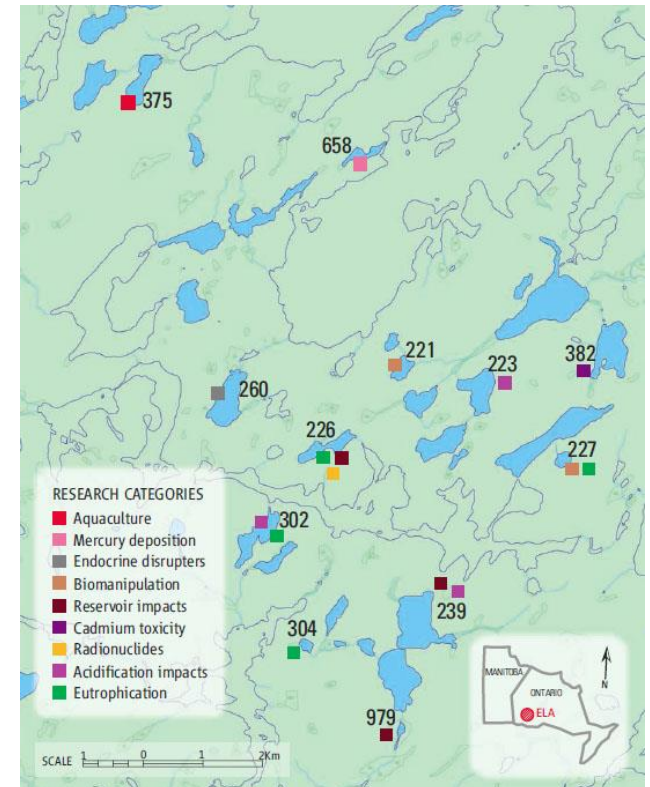
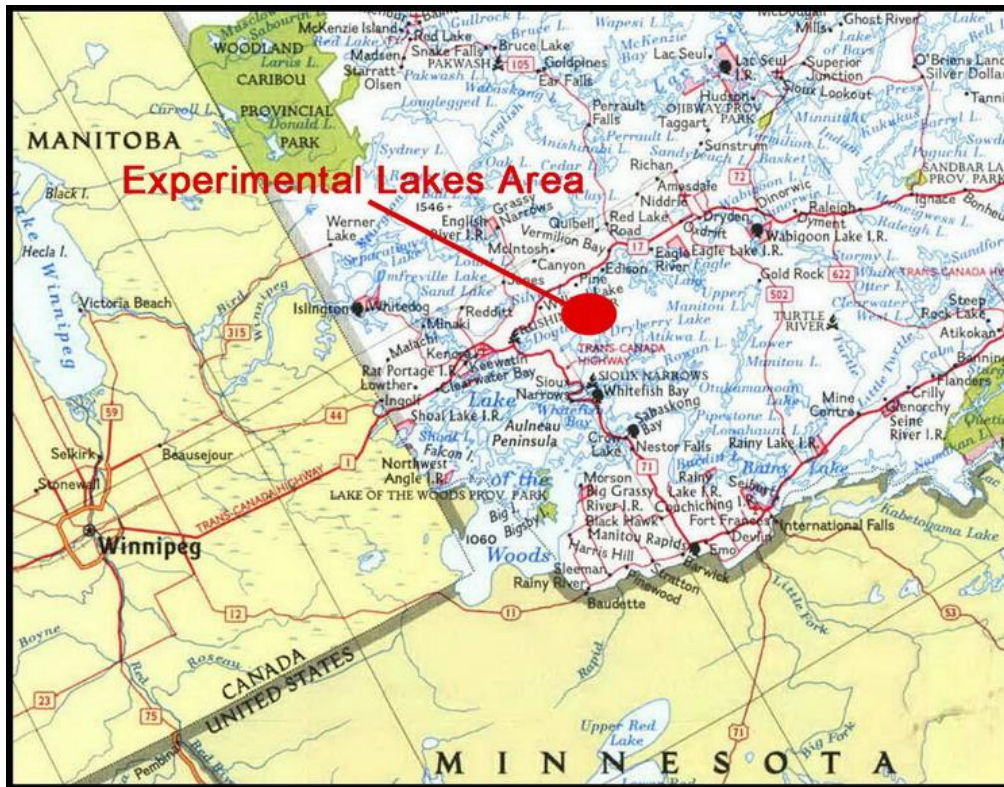


# Mechanism

# Biogens

Nitrogen or phosphorus – which one is more important?

Canada experience (experimental lakes area)



The removal of phosphorus is more important

# Control questions

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1. How does nitrogen discharge in wastewater contribute to the degradation of the aquatic environment?
2. How does phosphorus discharge in wastewater contribute to the degradation of the aquatic environment?
3. Organic compounds – what happens when they enter the environment from wastewater?
4. Why is phosphorus the key element limiting algae growth?
5. What nitrogen removal mechanisms occur in natural waters? Do they allow for effective water purification from nitrogen compounds?
6. What phosphorus removal mechanisms occur in natural waters? Do they allow for effective water purification from phosphorus compounds?
7. Prepare schematic drawings illustrating the effects of water pollution by wastewater.
8. Explain the procedure for determining  $BOD_5$ . What is the physical significance of the obtained result?
9. Oxygen solubility – how much oxygen dissolves in 1 m<sup>3</sup> of water? Is this amount sufficient in relation to the oxygen demand required for the oxidation of organic compounds in wastewater?