

# **Enhanced Protocols for Managing a Network of Modern Water Quality Sensors**



# Lisle Snyder, Jody Potter, William H. McDowell

Department of Natural Resources & the Environment, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824

# COSYSTEMS +SOCIETY

## **Background**

- 10 sites across New Hampshire (Figure 1)
- Variety of stream orders & land uses

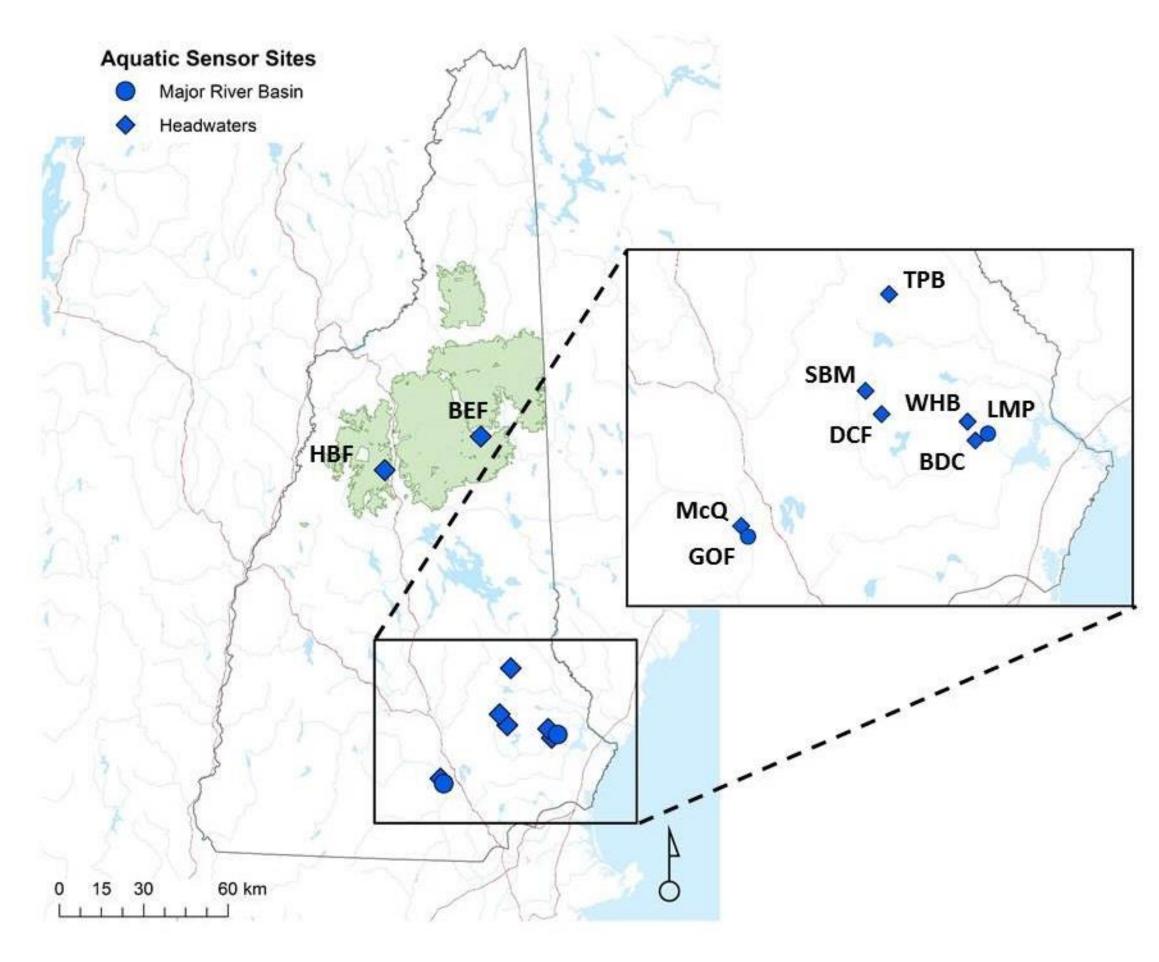


Figure 1 - Water quality sensor locations in New Hampshire

Year round water quality data at 15 minute interval:



#### Satlantic SUNA

- Nitrate
- Abs 254



#### YSI EXO2

- Temperature
- Conductivity
- Fluorescent Dissolved
  Organic Matter (fDOM)
  (Surrogate for DOC)
- Turbidity
- Dissolved Oxygen
- pH
- Cell telemetry allows for data updates daily

### **Routine Protocols**

- Sensor calibrations scheduled at 5% SUNA lamp life (approx. every 6 weeks based on sample regime)
- Sensors rotate from site to site
- Weekly grab samples at each site for validation

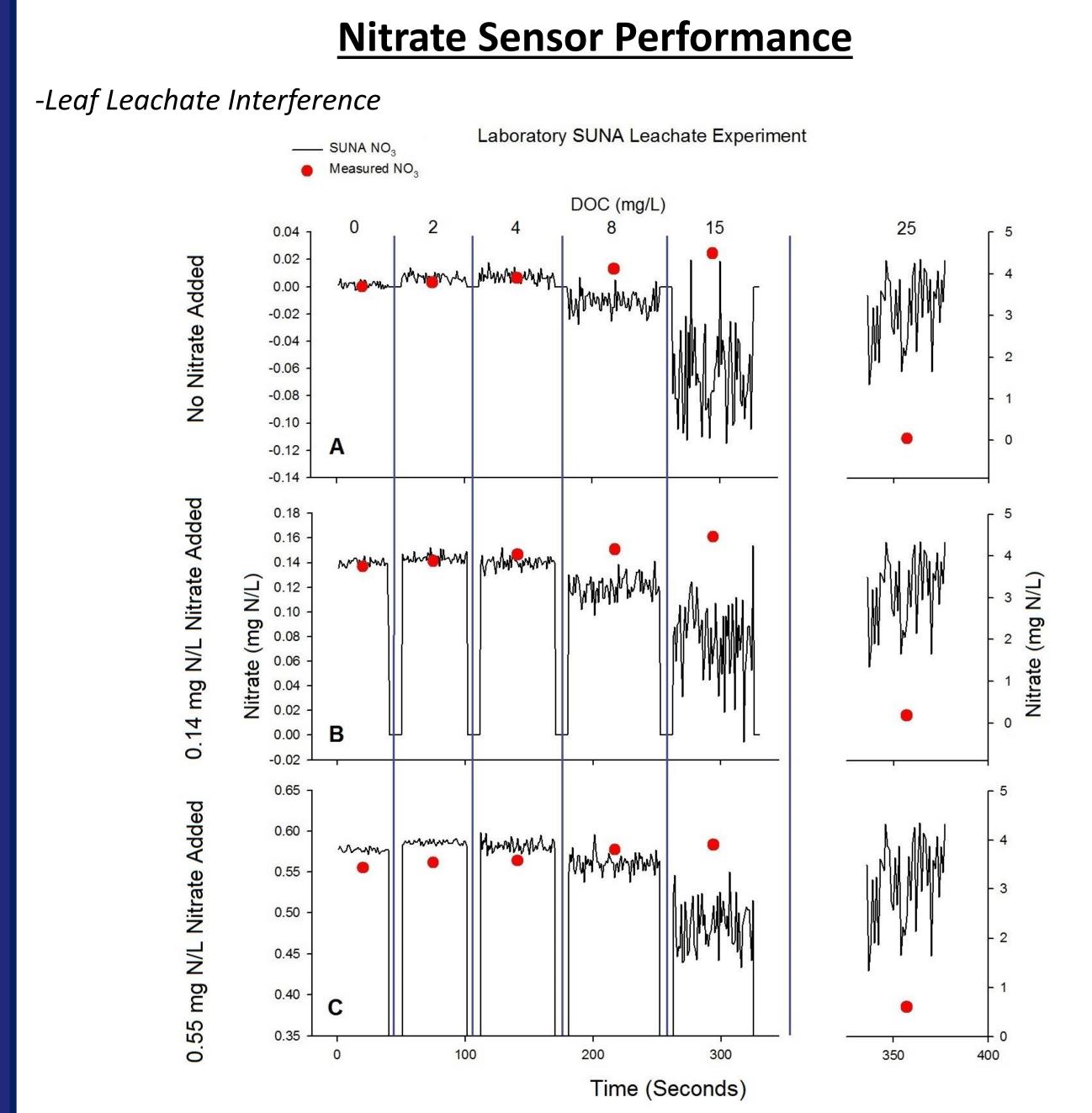


Figure 2 - SUNA response to increasing doses of leaf leachate with zero added nitrate (A), low added nitrate (B), and moderate added nitrate (C)

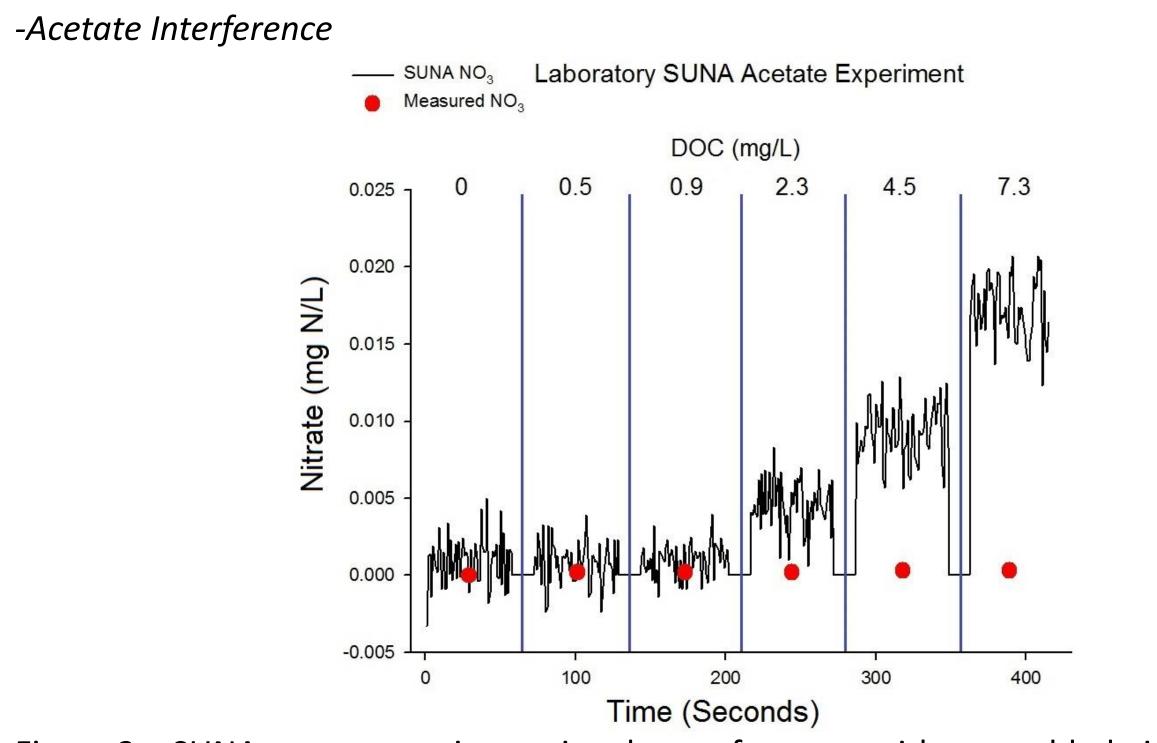


Figure 3 – SUNA response to increasing doses of acetate with zero added nitrate

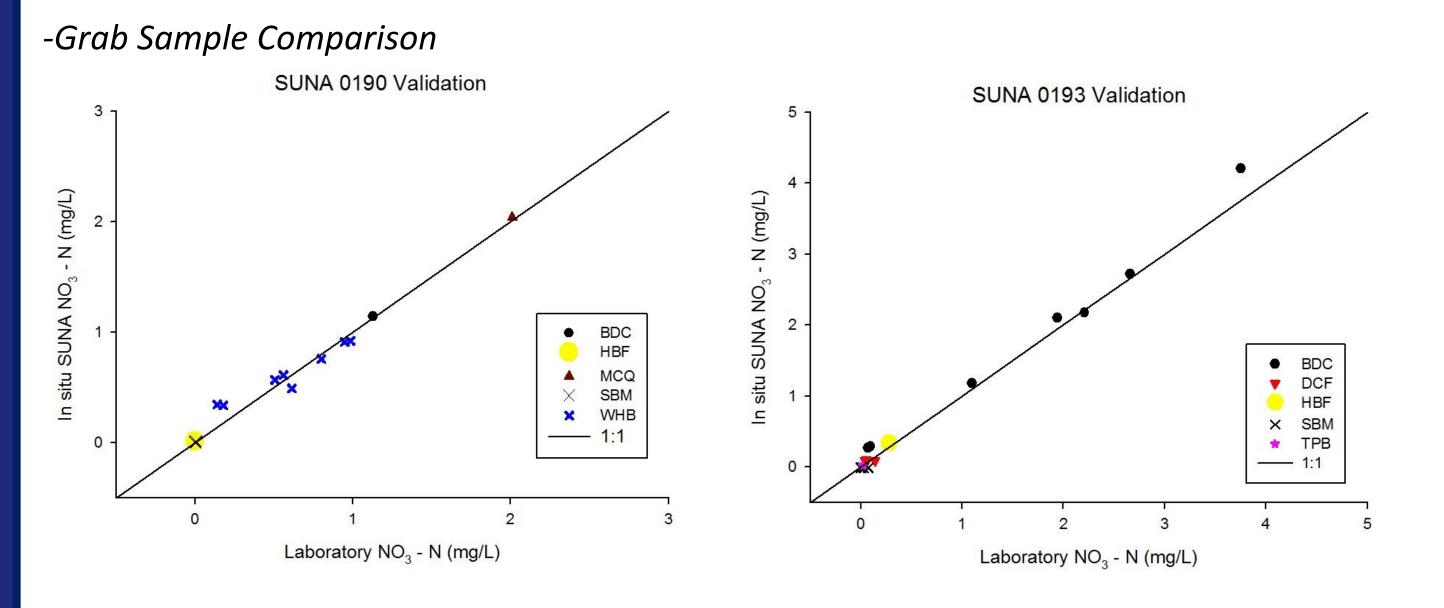
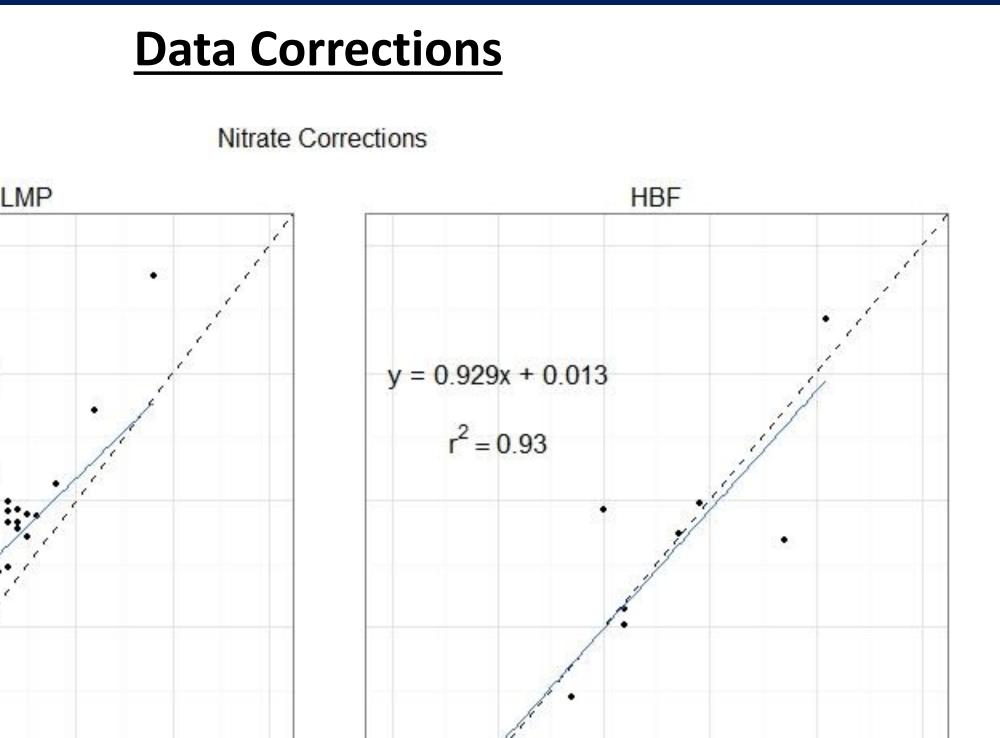


Figure 4 – Validations of 2 SUNAs comparing grab to in situ measurements across sites



Grab Nitrate mg N/L

Figure 5 - Grab sample vs in situ nitrate measurements showing the relationships are site-specific

Grab Nitrate mg N/L

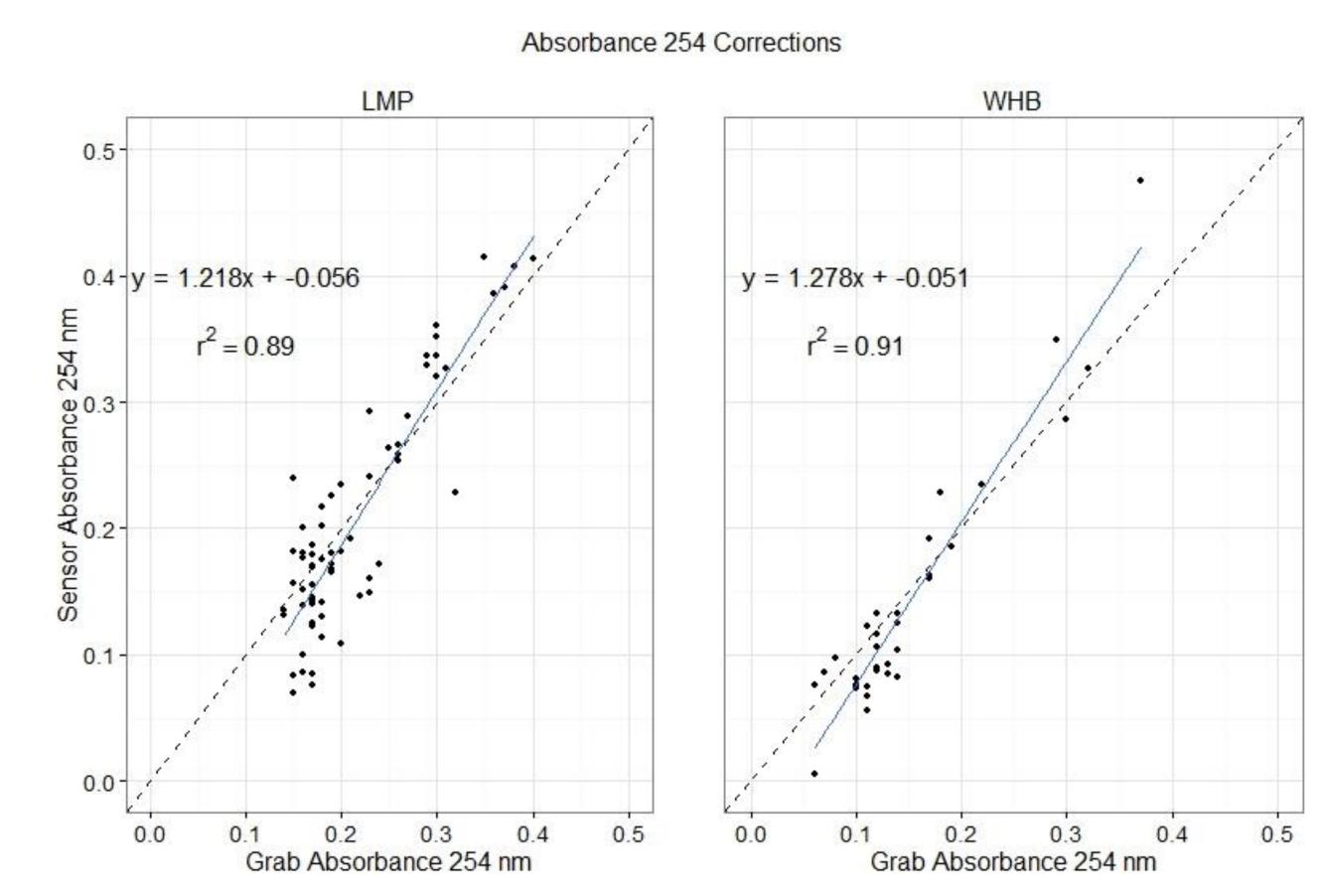


Figure 6 - Grab sample vs in situ SUNA generated Abs 254 at different sites showing the relationship appears to be very similar across sites

### **Conclusions:**

0.4 - y = 0.745x + 0.094

- Nitrate offsets are clearly site-specific and not sensor-specific
- SUNA offsets can vary in magnitude and direction based on DOC type supports that site-specific biogeochemistry will have unique effect on sensor offsets/corrections
- Other measurements (such as Abs 254) do appear to have offsets that are uniform across sites
- Maximum value achieved when YSI/SUNA deployed in tandem, data from one is used to correct data from the other