



LVI Primer

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LVI Primer

- Lake definition for use of LVI
- Select dominants by aerial extent
- Only include plants up to the Seasonal High Water Level; only plants of wetland status OBL or FACW should be included (62-340, F.A.C)
- Do not sample during extreme high or low water conditions
- Follow data usability guidelines

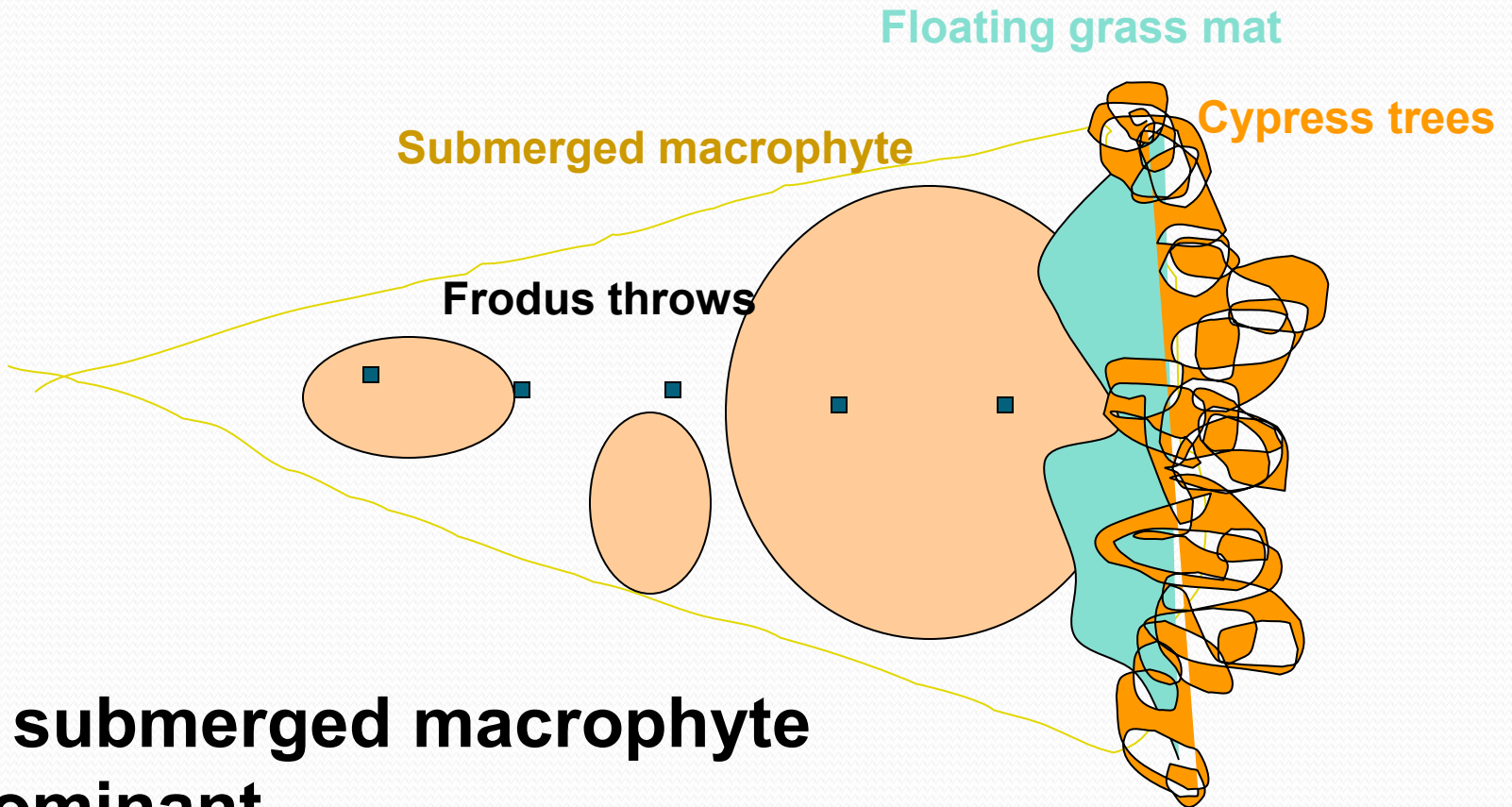
Lake Definition

For the purpose of the proposed Class III freshwater lake criteria, a lake shall mean a freshwater waterbody that is not a stream or other watercourse, which has a minimum of two acres of contiguous open water that is free from emergent vegetation. Aquatic or floating vegetation may be present in these two acres of open water.

Dominant Species Selection

- How to choose between submersed, emergent, floating, and trees?
- Select dominance by areal extent in the water

Assigning Dominance



**The submerged macrophyte
is dominant**

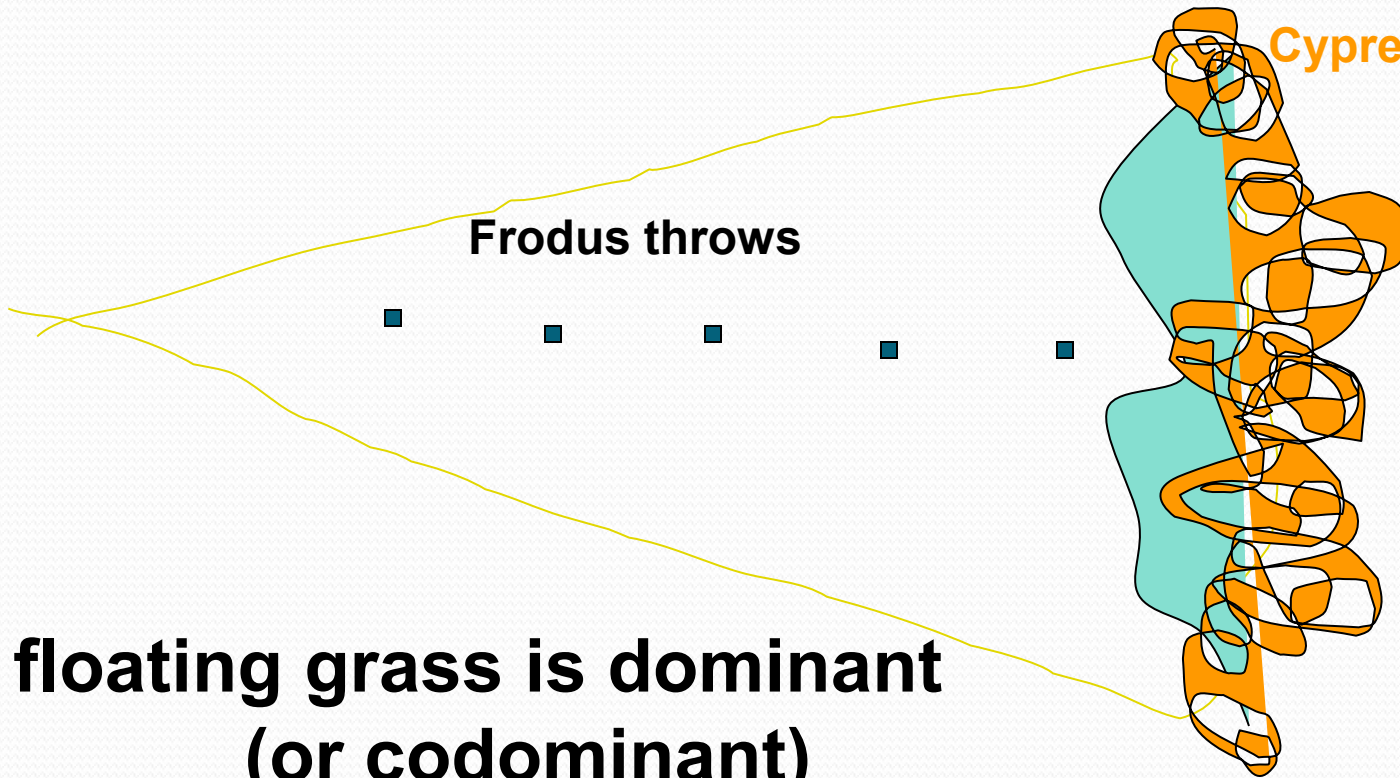
Assigning Dominance

Floating grass mat

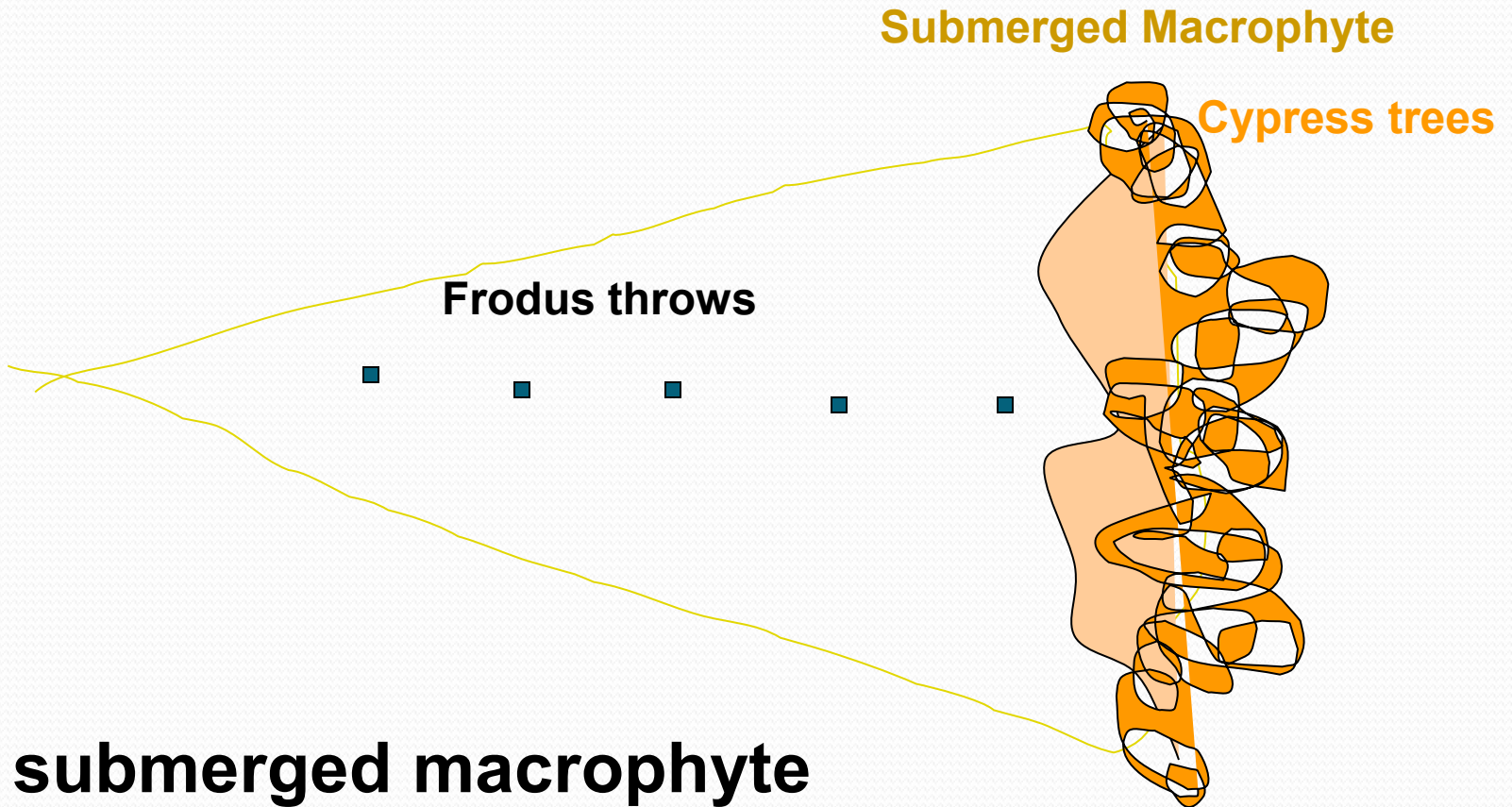
Cypress trees

Frodus throws

**The floating grass is dominant
(or codominant)**

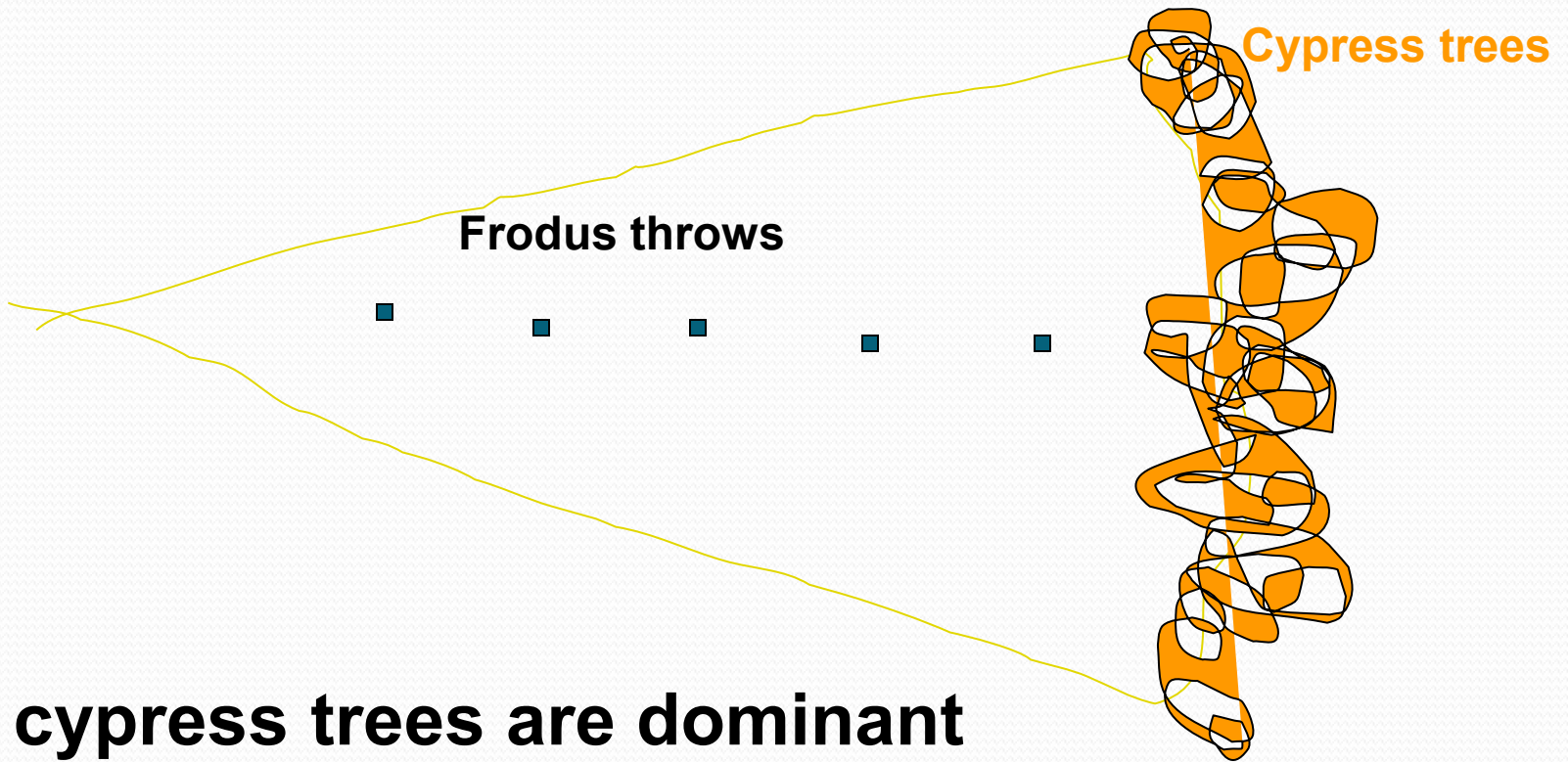


Assigning Dominance



**The submerged macrophyte
is dominant (or codominant)**

Assigning Dominance











Seasonal High Water

- 62-340.200(15), F.A.C., “the elevation to which the groundwater and surface water can be expected to rise in a normal wet season...The presence of hydrologic indicators must be used with reasonable scientific judgment.”
- Only Include Plants of Wetland Status
 - OBL, FACW, FAC
- Atlas of Vascular Plant website (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>)

Very Large Lakes

- LVI can be done
- Conduct drive-by at idle for ~1,000m and then speed up if no changes
- May take extra time, and may not be worth the effort or accomplish local goals

High or Low Water Levels

- Guiding Principle- Conduct the LVI if expected plants are accessible and in good condition
- High water – do not sample if emergent or floating plants are submersed
- Low water – do not sample if littoral zone is dry and few taxa are in the water





Brackish Lakes

- Do not sample if marine plant species are present
 - Mangroves
 - *Spartina alterniflora*
 - *Spartina patens*
 - *Juncus roemerianus*

Data Usability Guidelines

- Consider study objectives
- Evaluate QA/QC
 - Records may be audited, so keep good records
- Consider method detection
- Determine reasonable cause for failure

Team Proficiency Testing (FA 4330)

- Conduct LVI at “benchmark” lake within 30 days of expert teams and score within +/- 12 points of expert median score
- A participating team will be part of the expert group if the team leader has participated in a previous exercise*, scoring within +/- 12 points from the median

* Unless the team/team leader score on the most recent past exercise did not pass

Team Proficiency Testing 2009

- Lakes Carr, Otter, Garfield (Polk County)
- Scores within ± 12 points of the established benchmark scores for the benchmark lakes will be deemed as passing the proficiency test
- Scores outside the ± 12 point range for a benchmark lake will be deemed as failing the proficiency test
 - Including “experts” outside the ± 12 point range
 - Teams must then pass 2 other lakes

A photograph of a pond with large green lily pads and a single white lotus flower in bloom. The flower has a bright yellow center. The text "Questions?" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

Questions?