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Trait-based approaches to plankton ecology

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Ecological communities are complex, due to the large number of species interacting in a heterogeneous environment. Recently it has been suggested that one way to peer through this complexity is to view communities through a trait-based lens. I will present an overview of different trait-based modeling approaches, give some examples of how they have been used, describe how they can be extended to include spatial and temporal heterogeneity, and outline future challenges