



# DIGITAL CAMERA TECHNOLOGY



## DIGITAL CAMERA CATEGORIES

Pocket Size, Point and shoot, High end  
Weight - Flash Range - Picture Quality  
Voice & Video

## MEGAPIXEL CONFUSION

Less than 3MB for shoot and print - 3MB for good quality and minor editing  
5MB or greater for detail editing - More pixels needs more memory for storage

## MEMORY – TYPES AND SIZE

Consider a single large memory card. Hi Q photos can be ~ 1MB  
128MB min - allows photos, voice and video At 256MB, batteries become limitation.  
Compact Flash – Cheap but large - SD popular small size  
Photo Quality – JPEG Compression artifacts

## LENS AND ZOOM

Is lens protected when off - Does lens protrude  
3X Optical Zoom - very useful, but above 5X a tripod may be needed  
Low light capability  
**Image Stabilization** – **mechanical** or digital  
Ignore 'Digital Zoom' rating - it is of limited value

## **SCREENS, OPTICAL VIEWFINDERS**

Optical viewfinders work well in bright sun and save power  
LCD Screens work well in low light - Large LCD drain batteries.  
LCD also show menu choices and let you edit.  
Some newer LCD's work well in bright light

## **SHUTTER LAG, NEXT SHOT DELAY and STARTUP TIME**

Some camera take seconds to start – could miss a shot - Fast start cameras can be left off  
Some cameras require seconds between shots  
Auto multi-shots - easy delete

## **BATTERIES**

Standard cell size – can be purchased at convenience stores  
Small cameras almost all use proprietary batteries  
One time, NiCd, NiMH, Lithium [smallest]  
Must battery be removed for drop in charging? - Docking Station

## **WEIGHT**

## **SAVING, TRANSFERING PHOTOS**

USB - Either to Windows directly or to photo software  
Card readers - Can be used for any files - a printers with reader is less flexible

## **SOFTWARE**

Save printer ink – preprocess photos  
Windows come with photo software and most new digital camera's come with free software  
Photo merge panoramic software very useful