



Ocean Acidification  
International  
Coordination Centre

OA-ICC



UNIVERSITY OF  
GOTHENBURG



THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

KUNGL.  
VETENSKAPS-  
AKADEMIEN

## Basic training course on ocean acidification

EVT1804704

14-19 March 2022

# Modulating factors



# Ocean acidification is too complex to answer with one experiment

**Each experiment is an abstraction of reality**  
modulated by

- ✓ Experimental design
  - Confounding factors
  - Practical limitations

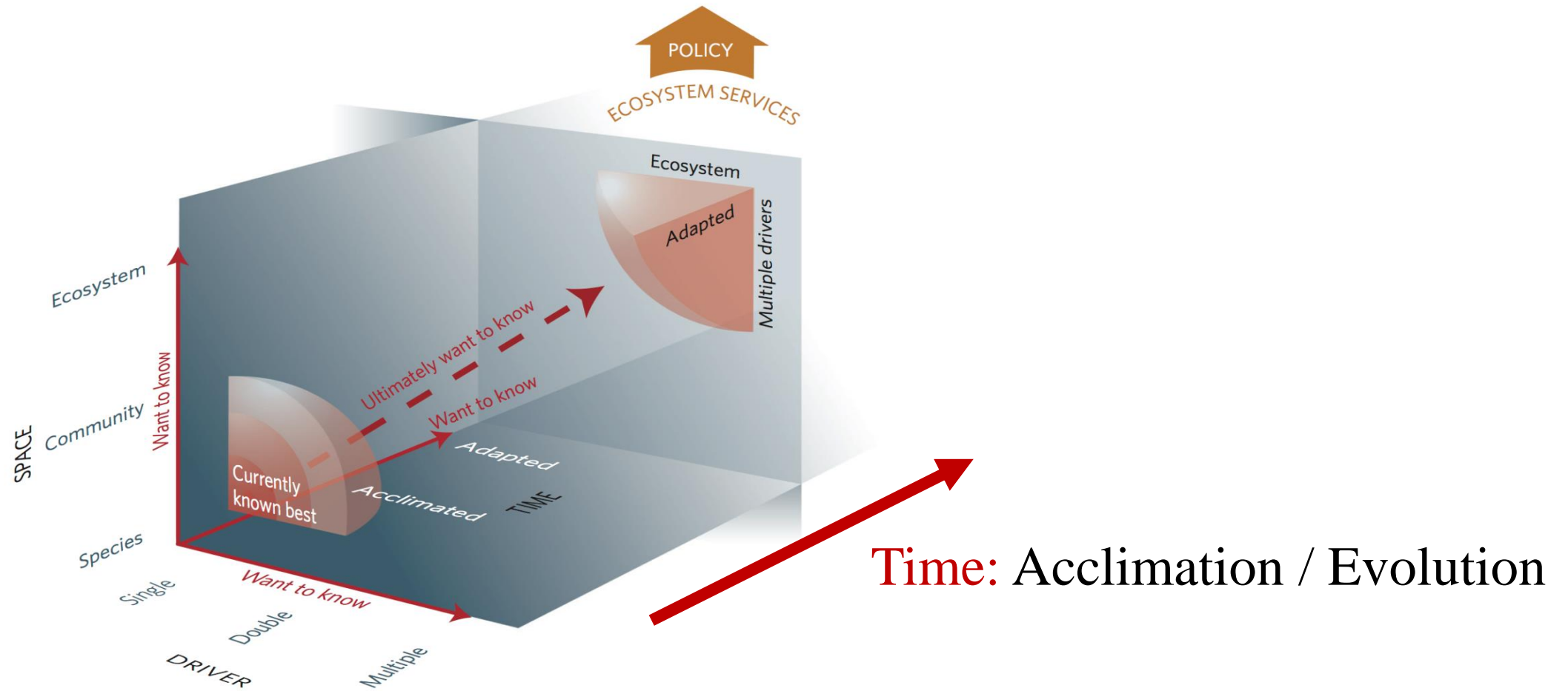
# Ocean acidification is too complex to answer with one experiment

**Each experiment is an abstraction of reality**  
modulated by

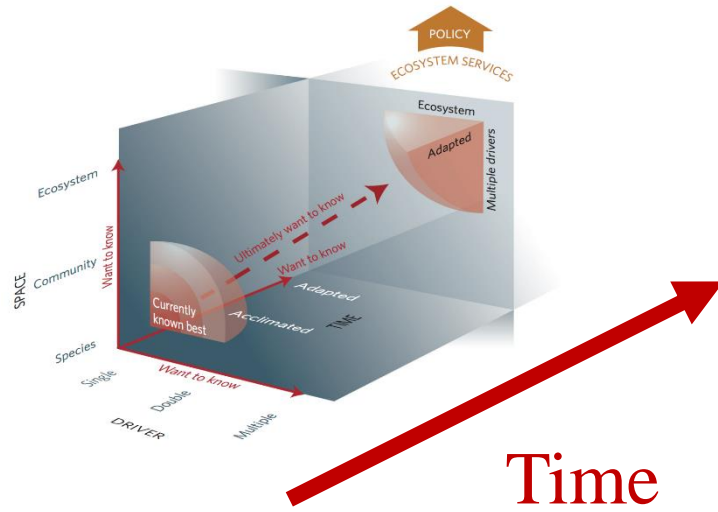
- ✓ Experimental design
  - Confounding factors
  - Practical limitations
  
- ✓ Lack of realism



# Ocean acidification is too complex to answer with one experiment



# Ocean acidification is too complex to answer with one experiment



Short term experiments neglect:

- ✓ Acclimation
- ✓ Carry-over
- ✓ Selection
- ✓ Etc

and then lead to over- or under-estimation of the ocean acidification effect

# Field of (marine) evolution

Review

**Cell**  
PRESS

## Evolution in an acidifying ocean

Jennifer M. Sunday<sup>1,2</sup>, Piero Calosi<sup>3</sup>, Sam Dupont<sup>4</sup>, Philip L. Munday<sup>5,6</sup>,  
Jonathon H. Stillman<sup>7,8</sup>, and Thorsten B.H. Reusch<sup>9</sup>

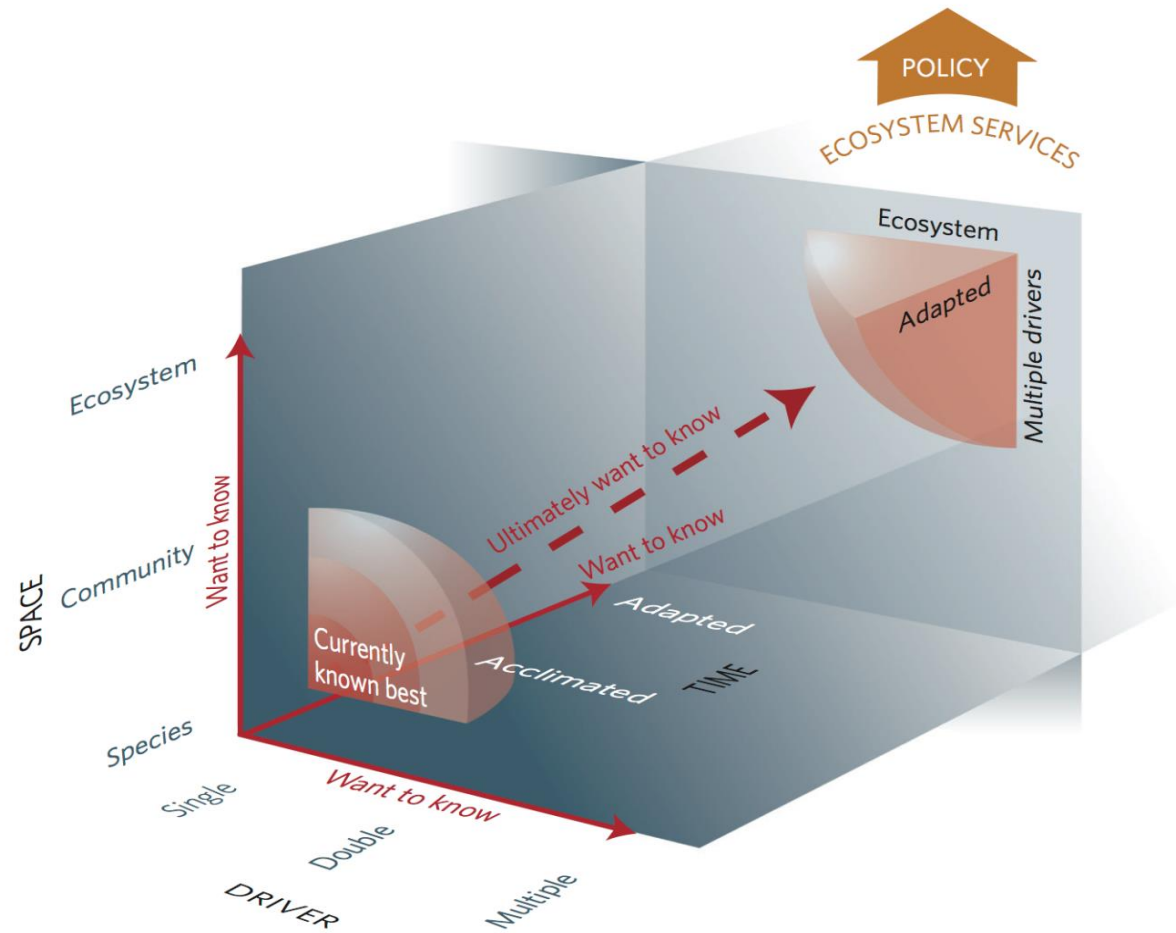
Evolutionary Applications ISSN 1752-4571

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Will life find a way? Evolution of marine species under global change

Piero Calosi,<sup>1</sup> Pierre De Wit,<sup>2</sup> Peter Thor<sup>3</sup> and Sam Dupont<sup>4</sup>

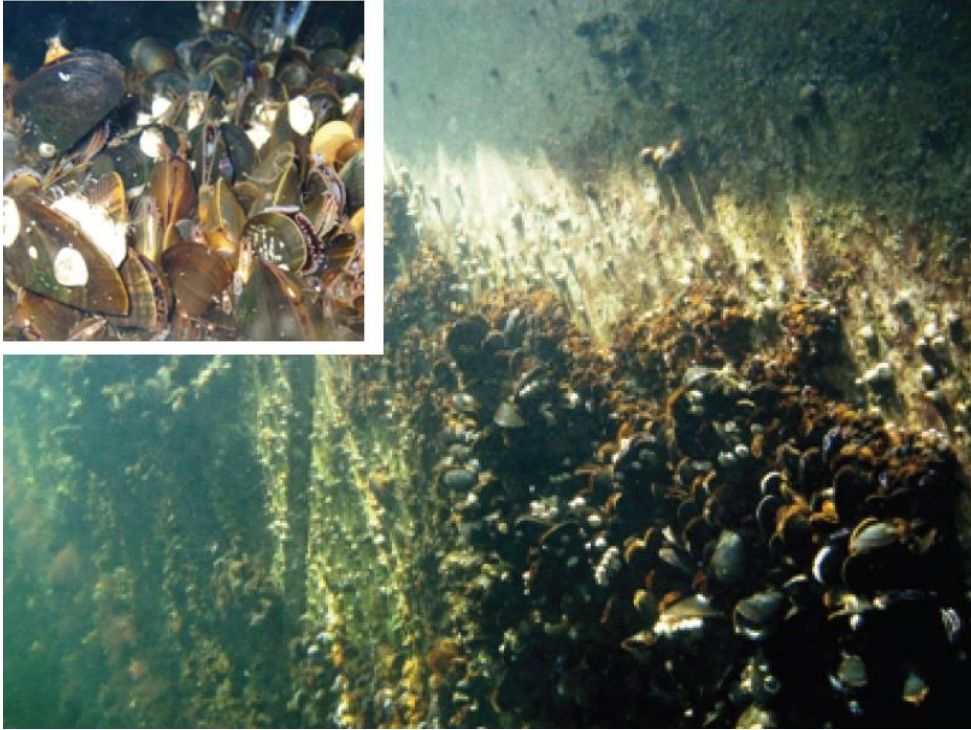
# Ocean acidification is too complex to answer with one experiment



**Space:** Interactions, Ecology



# Single species – lack modulating role of trophic interactions

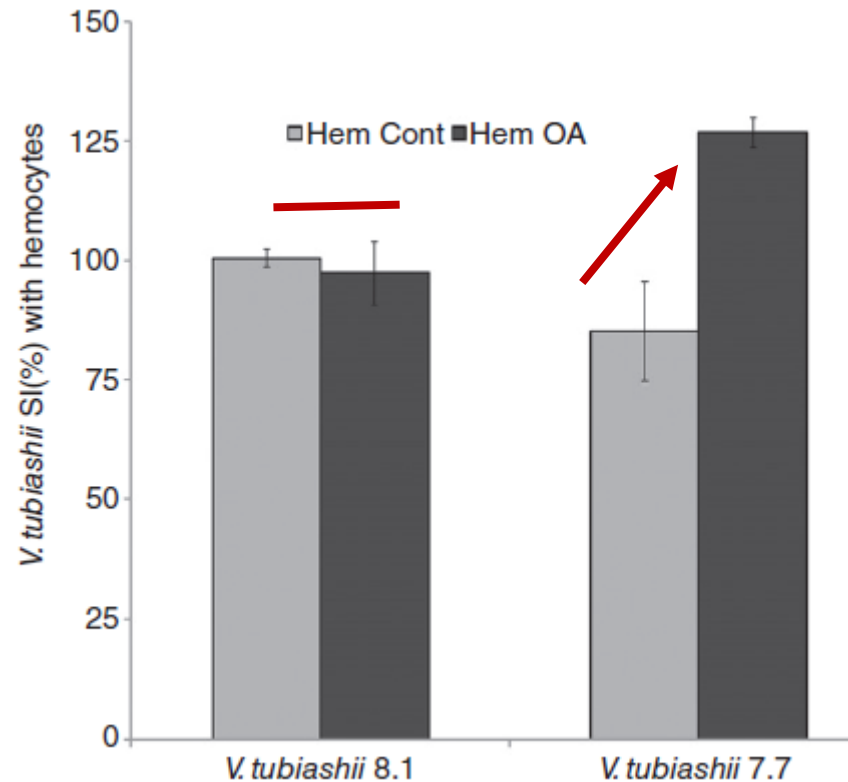


”Low” level of food can over-estimate the impact

pH 7.5,  $\Omega_{ara}=0.35$

(Thomsen et al. 2010)

# Single species – lack modulating role of species interactions (e.g. parasite)



## Ocean acidification and host–pathogen interactions: blue mussels, *Mytilus edulis*, encountering *Vibrio tubiashii*

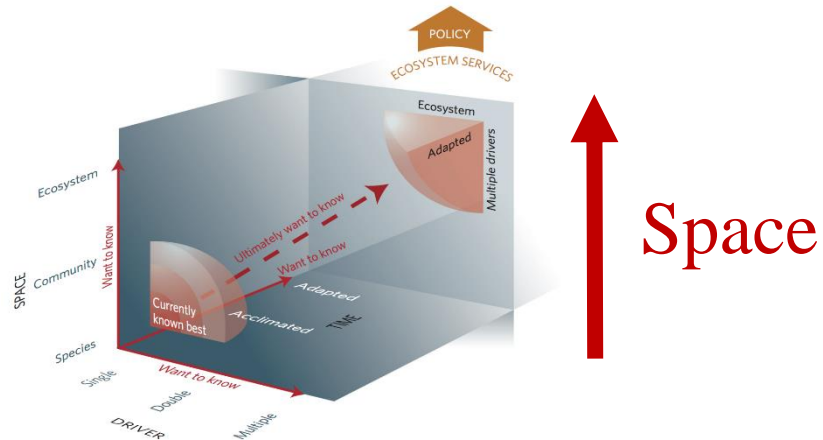
Maria E. Asplund,<sup>1\*</sup> Susanne P. Baden,<sup>1</sup> Sarah Russ,<sup>1</sup> Robert P. Ellis,<sup>2</sup> Ningping Gong<sup>3</sup> and Bodil E. Henriksen<sup>4,5</sup>

viability when exposed to haemocytes of OA-treated mussel. Our findings suggest that even though host organisms may have the capacity to cope with

Increased sensitivity to parasite if both cultured under low pH

Effect neglected in single species studies leads to under-estimation of effect on host

# Ocean acidification is too complex to answer with one experiment



Single species experiments neglect intra- and inter-specific interactions and then lead to over- or under- estimation of the ocean acidification effect

# Field of (marine) ecology

ESA CENTENNIAL PAPER

*Ecology*, 96(1), 2015, pp. 3–15  
© 2015 by the Ecological Society of America

## Ocean acidification through the lens of ecological theory

BRIAN GAYLORD,<sup>1,14</sup> KRISTY J. KROEKER,<sup>1</sup> JENNIFER M. SUNDAY,<sup>2</sup> KATHRYN M. ANDERSON,<sup>2</sup> JAMES P. BARRY,<sup>3</sup> NORAH E. BROWN,<sup>2</sup> SEAN D. CONNELL,<sup>4</sup> SAM DUPONT,<sup>5</sup> KATHARINA E. FABRICIUS,<sup>6</sup> JASON M. HALL-SPENCER,<sup>7</sup> TERRIE KLINGER,<sup>8</sup> MARCO MILAZZO,<sup>9</sup> PHILIP L. MUNDAY,<sup>10</sup> BAYDEN D. RUSSELL,<sup>4</sup> ERIC SANFORD,<sup>1</sup> SEBASTIAN J. SCHREIBER,<sup>11</sup> VENGATESEN THIYAGARAJAN,<sup>12</sup> MEGAN L. H. VAUGHAN,<sup>2</sup> STEVEN WIDDICOMBE,<sup>13</sup> AND CHRISTOPHER D. G. HARLEY<sup>2</sup>

nature  
climate change

ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 21 NOVEMBER 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE3161

## Ocean acidification can mediate biodiversity shifts by changing biogenic habitat

Jennifer M. Sunday<sup>1\*</sup>, Katharina E. Fabricius<sup>2</sup>, Kristy J. Kroeker<sup>3</sup>, Kathryn M. Anderson<sup>1</sup>, Norah E. Brown<sup>1</sup>, James P. Barry<sup>4</sup>, Sean D. Connell<sup>5</sup>, Sam Dupont<sup>6</sup>, Brian Gaylord<sup>7</sup>, Jason M. Hall-Spencer<sup>8,9</sup>, Terrie Klinger<sup>10</sup>, Marco Milazzo<sup>11</sup>, Philip L. Munday<sup>12</sup>, Bayden D. Russell<sup>13</sup>, Eric Sanford<sup>7</sup>, Vengatesen Thiyagarajan<sup>13</sup>, Megan L. H. Vaughan<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Widdicombe<sup>14</sup> and Christopher D. G. Harley<sup>1</sup>



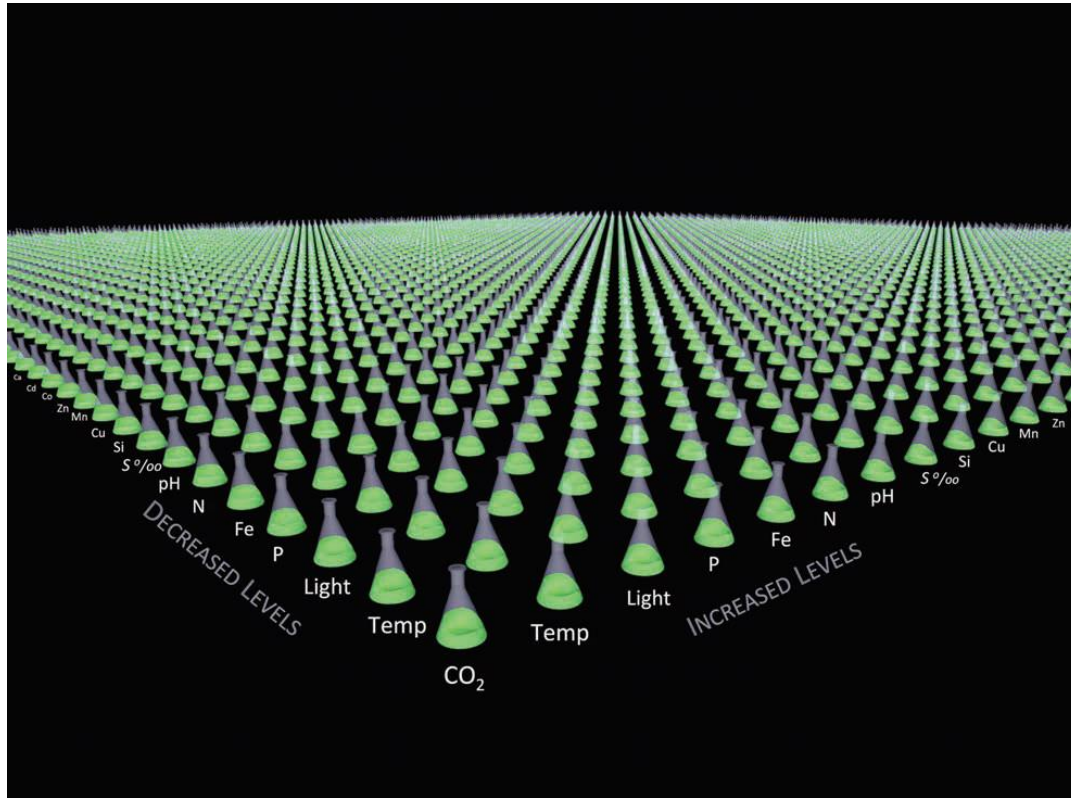
# THE question

Multiple drivers/stressors  
(A, B, C, D, etc.)

**What is the effect of  $A+B+C+D+etc.$**

# How to answer this question

## Multiple stressors experiments



- ✓ Many stressors
- ✓ Many scenarios

*Complex to perform*

*Complex to interpret !*

# Part 1 – Importance of definitions

*”She was here on earth to grasp the meaning of its wild enchantment and to call each thing by its right name.”*

(Pasternak, 1957 - Doctor Zhivago)



# Case study #1: impact of OA on mussels

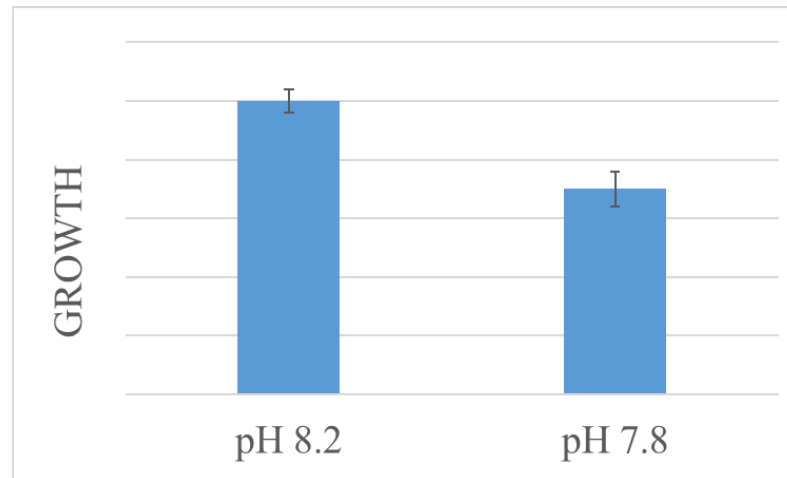


Shengsi island, China

**Exposure:** Monitoring - pH variability = 8.2 – 7.6

**Effect?** Experiment – two scenarios

- pH 8.2
- pH 7.8 (=8.2-0.4, IPCC)

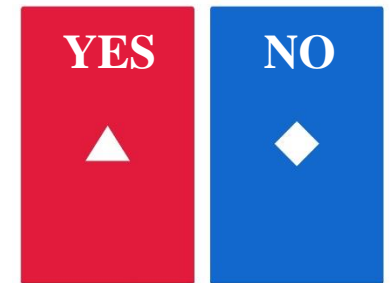


**Significant 15% decrease in growth**

# Question #1

You want to study the impact of ocean acidification ( $\Delta\text{pH}=-0.4$  pH unit) on mussels collected in the tidal zone of Shengsi island where the pH varies between 8.2 and 7.7. In the laboratory, you test pH 8.2 and pH 7.8 (8.2-0.4) and see that it leads to a decrease in growth by 15% when they are exposed to pH 7.8 as compared to 8.2

Can you reach the following conclusions?

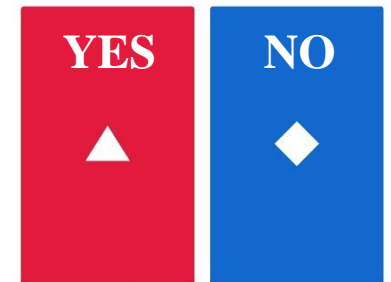


1. Mussel growth decreases by 15% under ocean acidification YES/NO

## Question #2

You want to study the impact of ocean acidification ( $\Delta\text{pH}=-0.4$  pH unit) on mussels collected in the tidal zone of Shengsi island where the pH varies between 8.2 and 7.7. In the laboratory, you test pH 8.2 and pH 7.8 (8.2-0.4) and see that it leads to a decrease in growth by 15% when they are exposed to pH 7.8 as compared to 8.2

Can you reach the following conclusions?



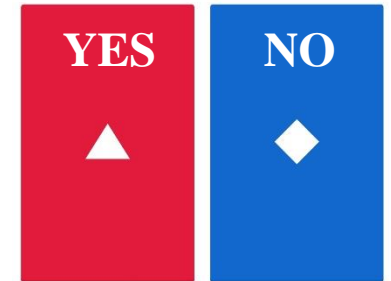
2. Mussels are stressed when exposed to pH 7.8

YES/NO

# Question #3

You want to study the impact of ocean acidification ( $\Delta\text{pH}=-0.4$  pH unit) on mussels collected in the tidal zone of Shengsi island where the pH varies between 8.2 and 7.7. In the laboratory, you test pH 8.2 and pH 7.8 (8.2-0.4) and see that it leads to a decrease in growth by 15% when they are exposed to pH 7.8 as compared to 8.2

Can you reach the following conclusions?



3. Our results show that pH is a stressor for these mussels

YES/NO

# Definitions

- *Stressor* *A pressure that causes a quantifiable negative effect on an organism, process or community.*
- *Driver* *A pressure that causes a quantifiable change (positive or negative) an organism, process or community.*
- *Stress* *A measurable response that is deleterious to an organism, process or community.*

# A driver can become a stressor

Small dose



Increase longevity

High dose



Acute



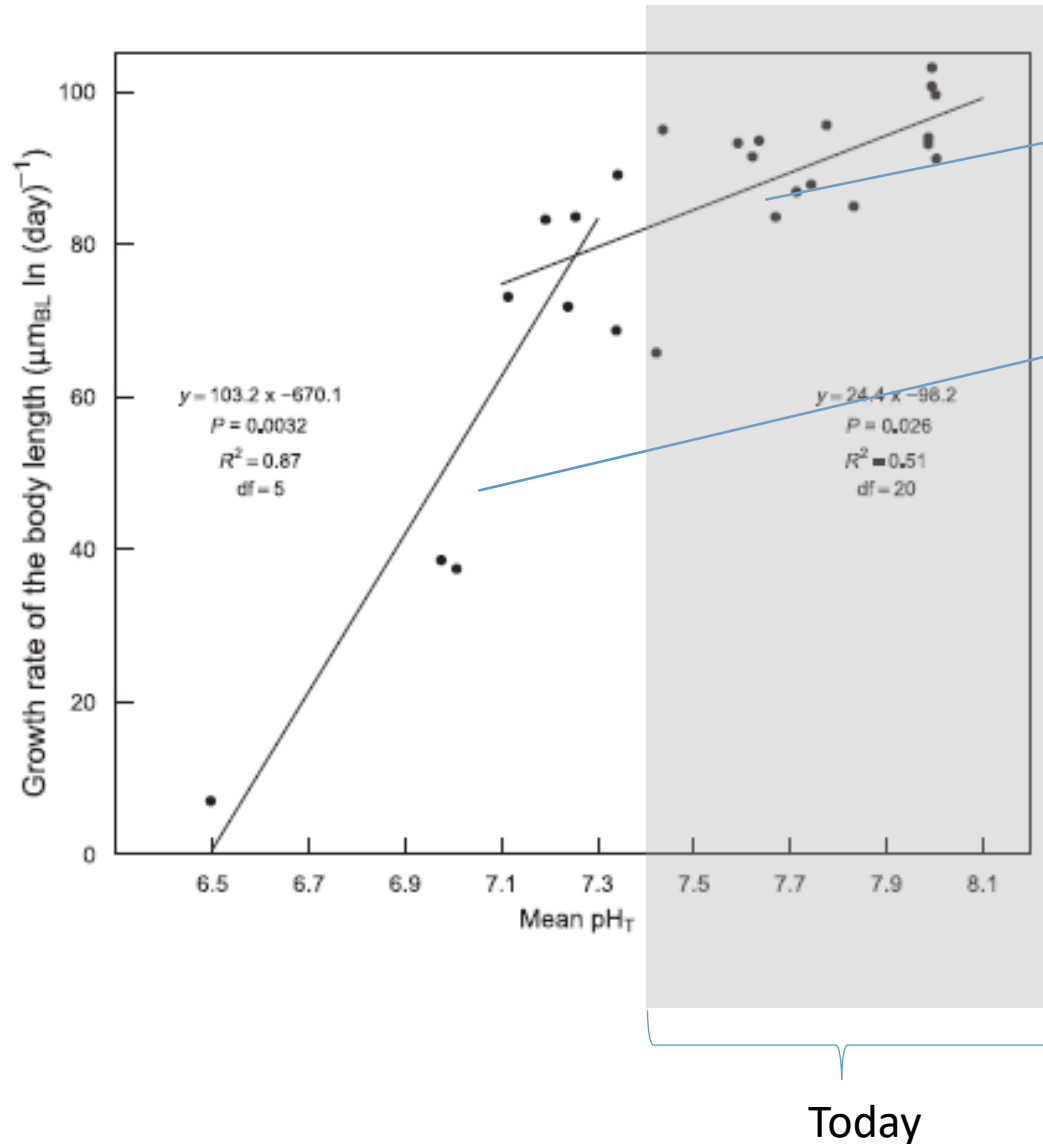
Stress (Hangover)

Chronic



Death

# A driver can become a stressor



Within the present range of variability  
**NOT ocean acidification**  
NOT stressor / No stress (plasticity)

Outside the present range of variability  
ocean acidification  
stressor / stress

Global Change Biology

Global Change Biology (2013), doi: 10.1111/gcb.12276

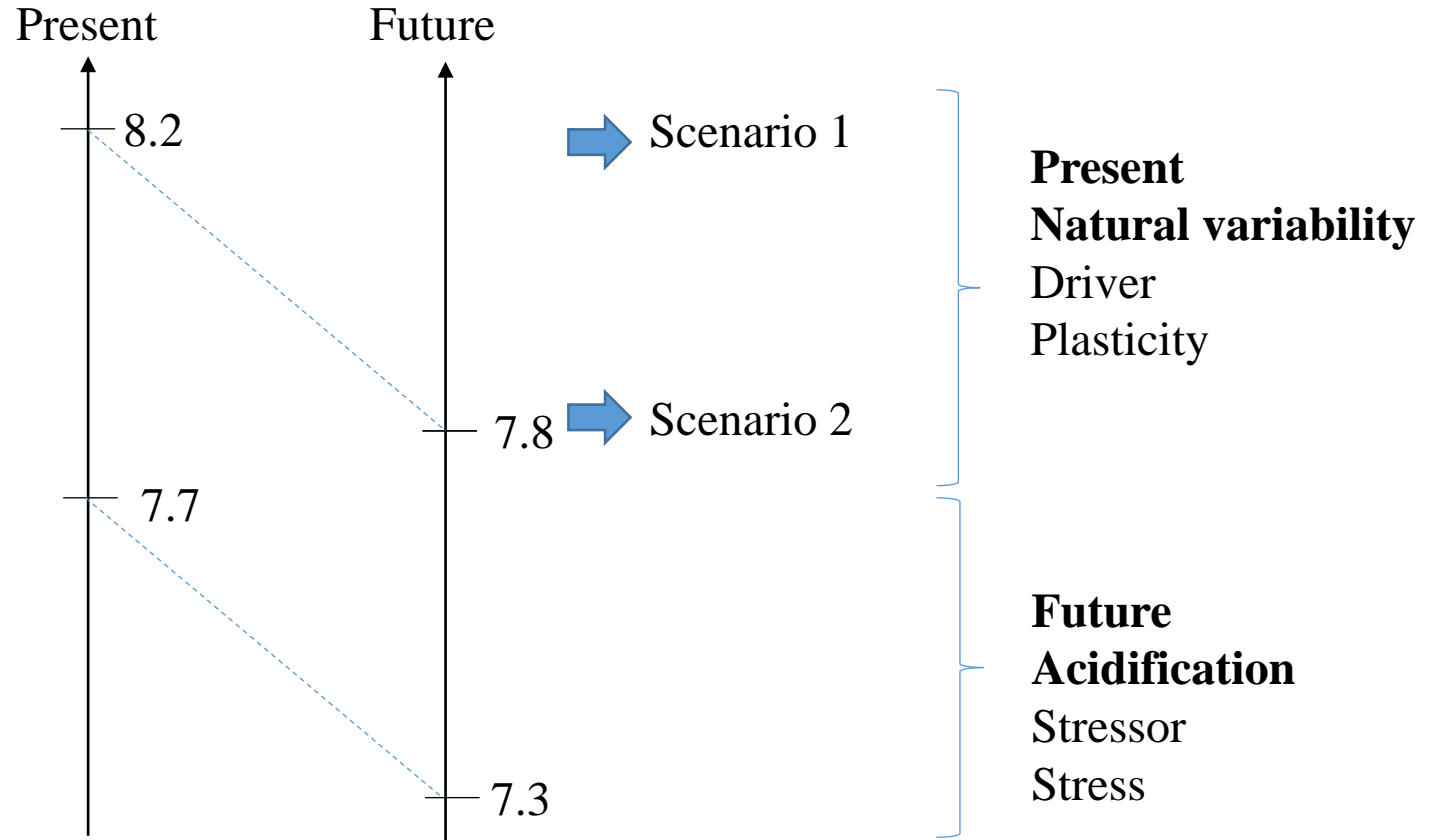
Assessing physiological tipping point of sea urchin larvae exposed to a broad range of pH

NARIMANE DOREY\*, PAULINE LANÇON\*, MIKE THORNDYKE† and SAM DUPONT\*

\*Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, The Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences – Kristineberg, University of Gothenburg, Fiskebäckskil 45178, Sweden, †The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, The Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences – Kristineberg, Fiskebäckskil 45178, Sweden



# Case study #1: impact of OA on mussels





# Question #1-3

You want to study the impact of ocean acidification ( $\Delta\text{pH}=-0.4$  pH unit) on mussels collected in the tidal zone of Shengsi island where the pH varies between 8.2 and 7.7. In the laboratory, you test pH 8.2 and pH 7.8 (8.2-0.4) and see that it leads to a decrease in growth by 15% when they are exposed to pH 7.8 as compared to 8.2




Can you reach the following conclusions?

1. Mussel growth decreases by 25% under ocean acidification YES/NO
2. Mussels are stressed when exposed to pH 7.8 YES/NO
3. Our results show that pH is a stressor for these mussels YES/NO

# Question #4

Is the following sentence correct?

Combining two stressors always lead to more stress than the individual effect of each stressor?

- Yes 
- No 
- It depends 

# Question #4

Is the following sentence correct?

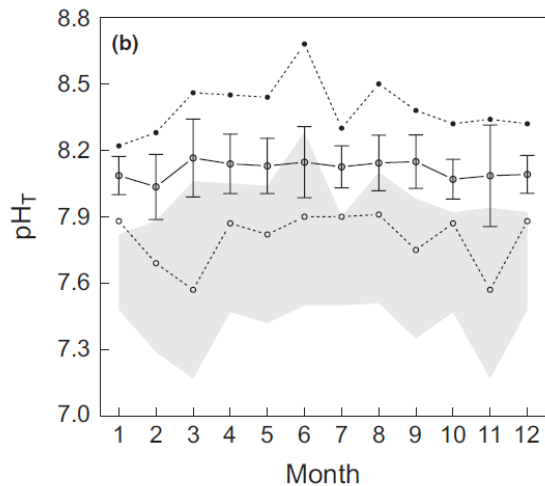
Combining two stressors always lead to more stress than the individual effect of each stressor?

- Yes
- No
- It depends

*By definition: more stressors = more stress (negative effects)*

# Part 1 – Importance of definitions

*Use the right terminology (and underlying concepts)*



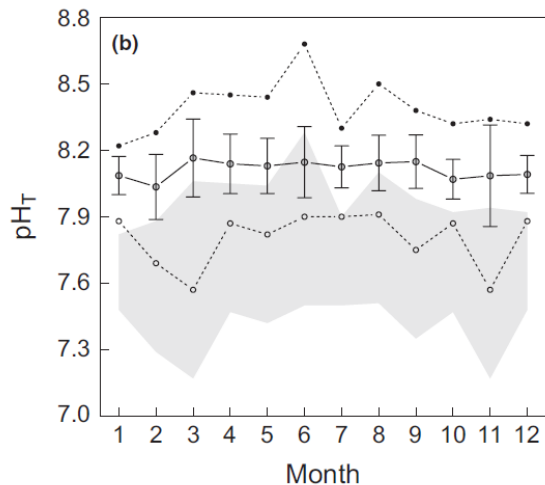
→ pH 8.1 = control

→ pH 7.6 = ocean acidification (IPCC scenarios)

# Part 1 – Importance of definitions

*Use the right terminology (and underlying concepts)*

*Important to consider present variability in defining tested scenarios (monitoring the weather)*



➡ pH 8.1 = control (present, average)

➡ pH 7.6 = control (present, extreme) – ocean acidification (future, average)

➡ pH 7.4 = ocean acidification (future, extreme, out of range)

# Part 2 – Importance of concepts

*Additive*

*Synergism/Synergistic*

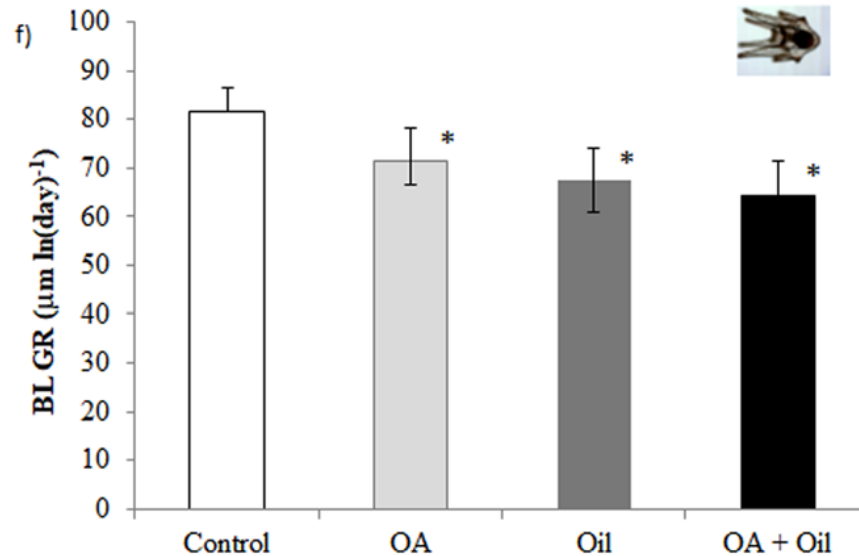
*Antagonistic*

# Case study #2: impact of OA and oil on sea urchin larvae

OPEN Effects of oil and global environmental drivers on two keystone marine invertebrates

Received: 8 October 2015  
Accepted: 8 November 2018  
Published online: 26 November 2018

Maj Arberg<sup>1,2</sup>, Piero Calosi<sup>2,3</sup>, John I. Spicer<sup>2</sup>, Ingrid C. Taban<sup>3</sup>, Shaw D. Bamber<sup>1</sup>, Stig Westerlund<sup>1</sup>, Sjur Vingen<sup>2</sup>, Thierry Baussant<sup>1</sup>, Renée K. Bechmann<sup>1</sup> & Sam Dupont<sup>4</sup>



**Effect on growth:**

OA: -7%

Oil: -11%

Oil+OA: -18%




## *Question #5*

In this experiment, we saw that the

Effect of Oil+OA = effect of oil + effect of OA.

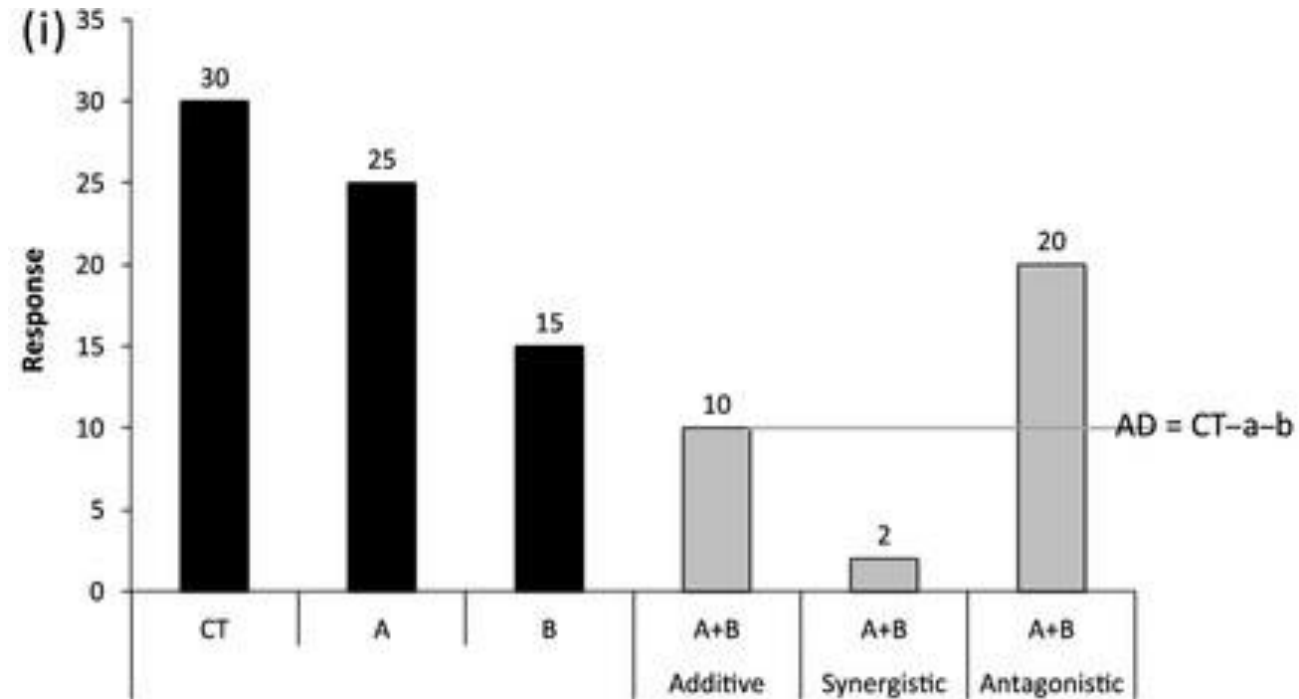
Is the following sentence correct:

Oil and OA are additive environmental parameters

- Yes 
- No 
- Not possible to know 



# In the literature...



Based on that definition:

○ Yes 

**BUT...**

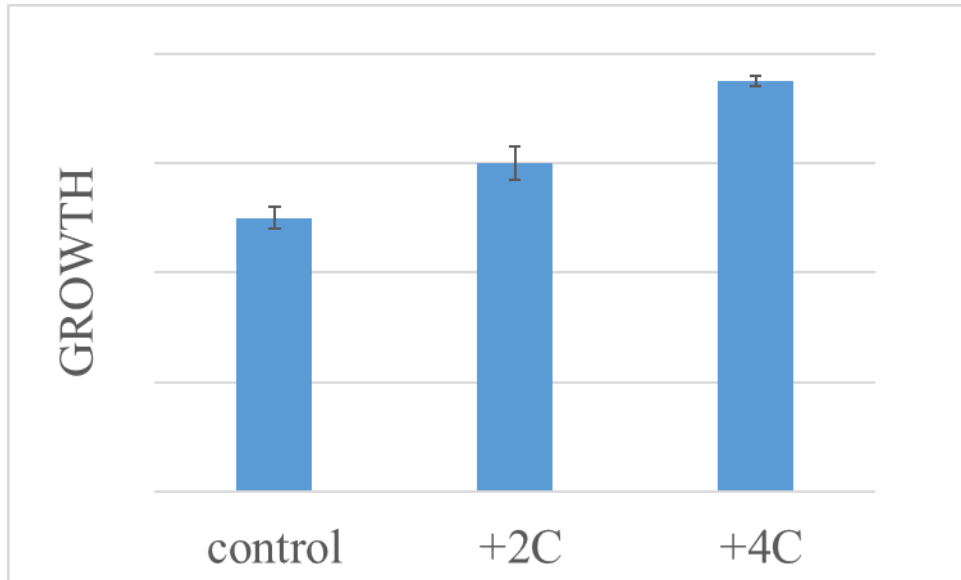
**Does additivity at the effect level = additivity at the stressor level?**

# Case study #3: impact of temperature on mussels



Ultimate additive stressors:  
Temperature + Temperature

# Case study #2: impact of temperature on mussels



**Effect on growth:**

+2C (A): +10%

+4C (B): +15%

+6C (A+B): ?

**Ultimate additive (multiple stressors): Temperature + Temperature**





# Question #6

You do an experiment testing the impact of temperature on mussel growth.

An increase by 2C = 10% increase in growth

An increase by 4C = 25% increase in growth

What is the % of increase in growth after a 6C increase in temperature?

- 35% 
- <35% 
- >35% 
- It depends 

## *Question #6*

You do an experiment testing the impact of temperature on mussel growth.

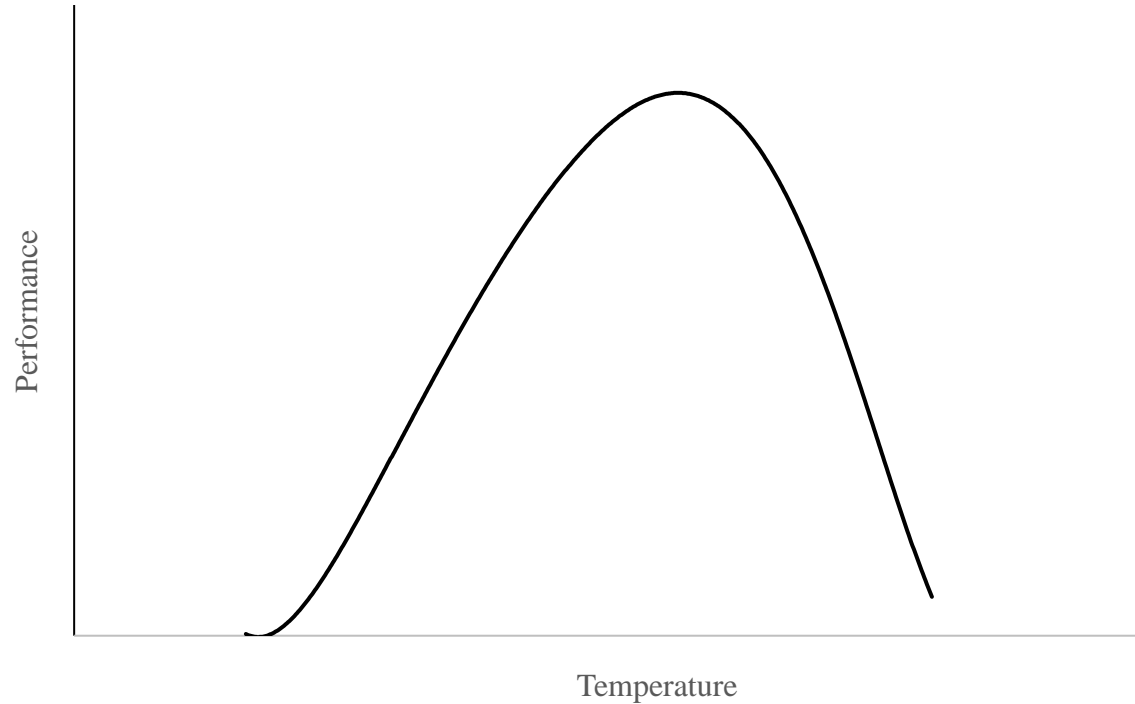
An increase by 2C = 10% increase in growth

An increase by 4C = 25% increase in growth

What is the % of increase in growth after a 6C increase in temperature?

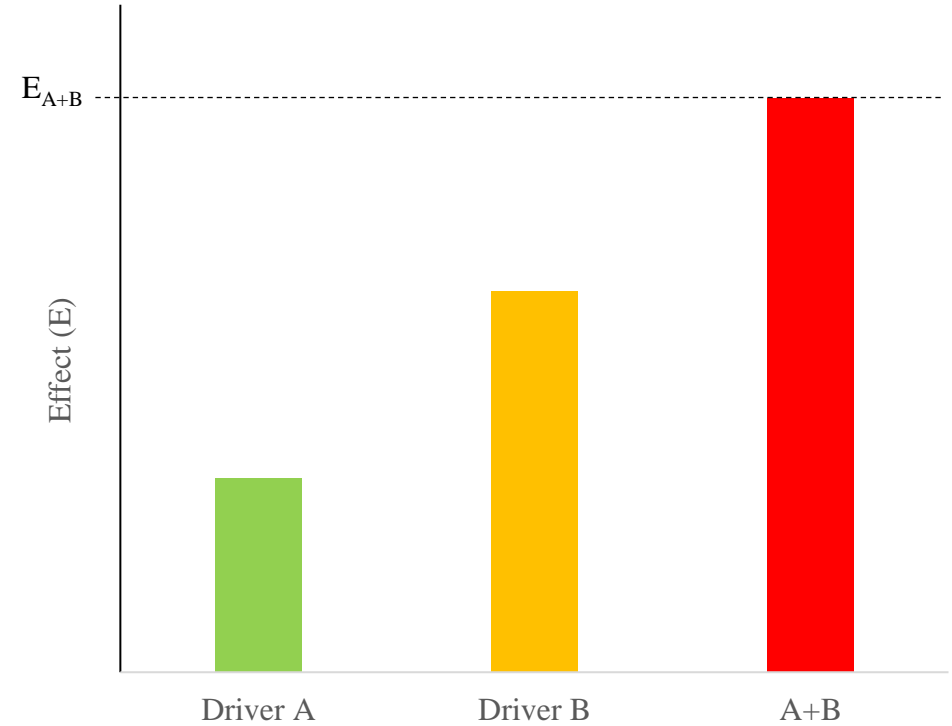
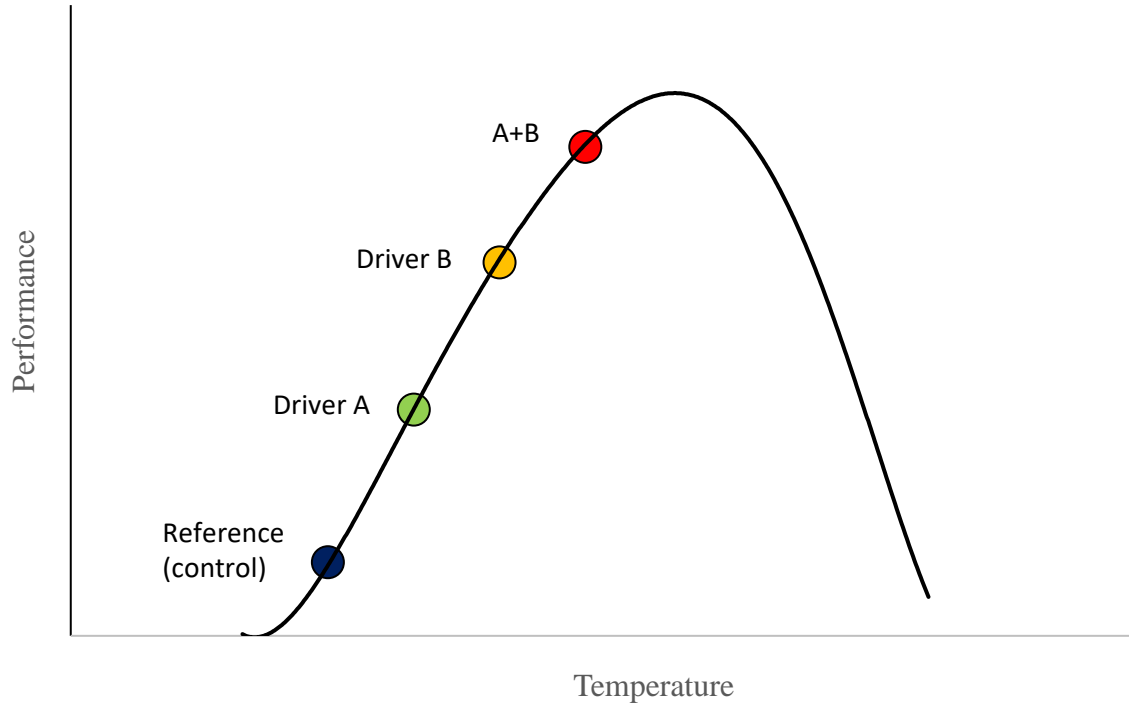
- 35%
- <35%
- >35%
- It depends

# Why does it depend?



Performance  
curves are not  
linear

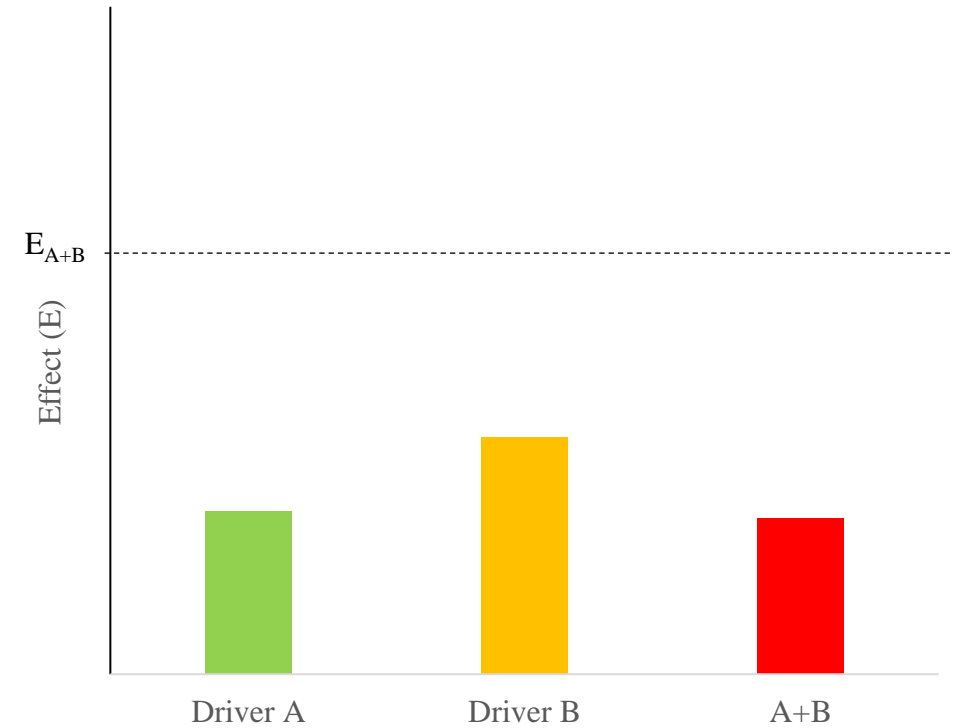
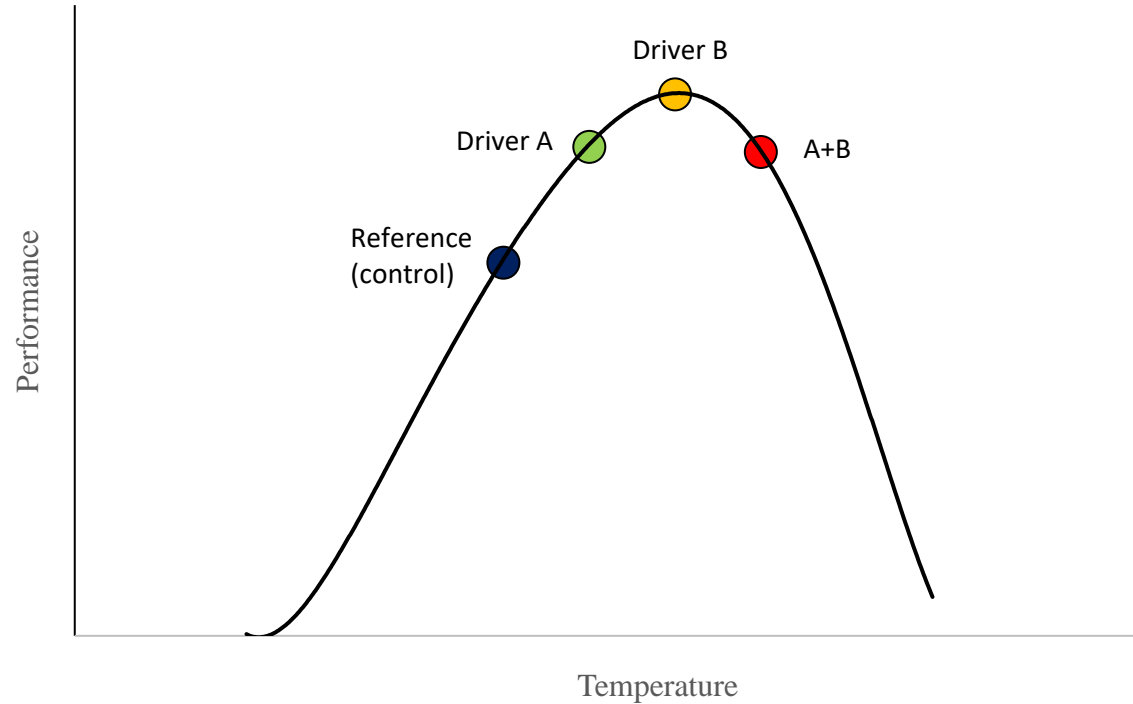
For additive driver, the effect depends on the shape of the curve and starting point



*Additive drivers*  
*Additive effect*

$$E_{a+b} = E_a + E_b$$

For additive driver, the effect depends on the shape of the curve and starting point

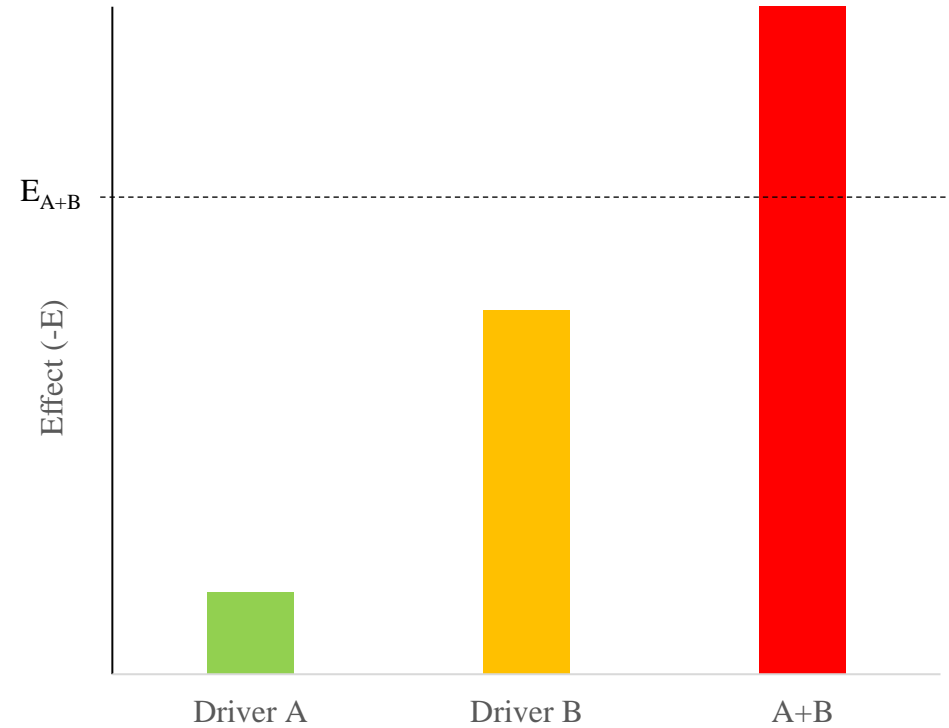
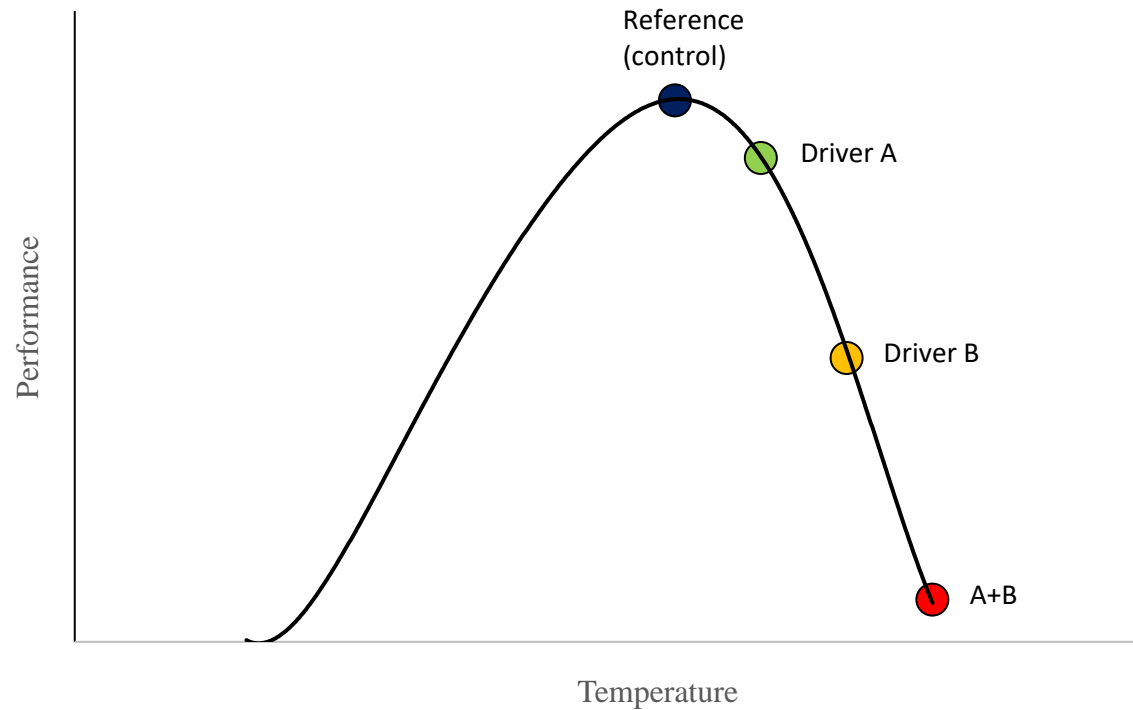


*Additive drivers*  
*Antagonistic effects*

$$E_{a+b} < E_a + E_b$$



For additive driver, the effect depends on the shape of the curve and starting point



*Additive drivers*  
*Synergistic effects*

$$E_{a+b} > E_a + E_b$$

Additive stressors add in a non-linear way (depends on the shape of the curve) so it does not translate into an arithmetical mathematical addition at the effect level

As a consequence:

1. What you see at the effect level does not say anything on the additivity of stressors
2. Multiple stressors experiments have limited potential to resolve how stressors work in combination

## *Question #5*

In this experiment, we saw that the

Effect of Oil+OA = effect of oil + effect of OA.

Is the following sentence correct:

Oil and OA are additive environmental parameters

- Yes
- No
- Not possible to know**

To understand how two  
stressors work in combination  
you need the **mode of action**

# Mode of action and interactions



Driver 1 = beer



Driver 1 = wine



Driver 1 = drugs

No interaction / Additive

Interaction

**Mechanistic studies**

# Definitions

<https://kahoot.it/>

Code: 2051639

- *Additive* *Absence of interaction between drivers/stressors (dose-addition)*
  - *Synergism/Synergistic*
  - *Antagonistic*
- Interactions between drivers/stressors*

# Four options

- *Same or different mode of action*
- *Interactions or no interactions*

		Interaction	
		Yes	No (additive)
Mode of action	Same		
	Different		

# Case study #4: warming and over-fishing



Global warming (A): kills 50% of fish



Fishing (B): kills 50% of fish

**A+B?**



# Question #7

You want to understand the combined effect of global warming and fisheries on a local population of fish. You know that:


- Global warming will kill 50% of the fish
- Fishing pressure will remove 50% of the fish

What will be the combined impact of global warming and fisheries?

- 25% of the fish will die
- 33% of the fish will die
- 75% of the fish will die
- 100% of the fish will die



# Different mode of action and no interactions

		Interaction	
		Yes	No (additive)
Mode of action	Same		
	Different		

# Different mode of action and no interactions



Stressor 1 = overfishing (50%)

Stressor 2 = Global warming (50%)

Stressor 1 + Stressor 2 = ???

# Different mode of action and no interactions



Stressor 1 = overfishing (50%)

Stressor 2 = Global warming (50%)

Stressor 1 + Stressor 2 = ???

# Different mode of action and no interactions



Stressor 1 = overfishing (50%)

Stressor 2 = Global warming (50%)

Stressor 1 + Stressor 2 = ???

$$R_{A+B} = R_A + R_B - R_A \times R_B = 75\%$$

# Question #7

You want to understand the combined effect of global warming and fisheries on a local population of fish. You know that:

- Global warming will kill 50% of the fish
- Fishing pressure will remove 50% of the fish


What will be the combined impact of global warming and fisheries?

- 25% of the fish will die
- 33% of the fish will die
- 75% of the fish will die**
- 100% of the fish will die

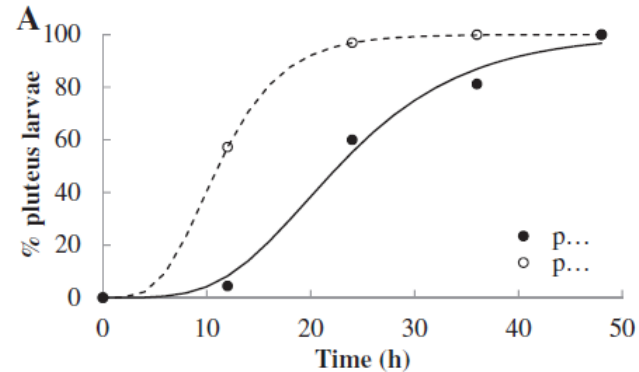
*Different mode of action*  
*No interaction*

*Additive stressor, Antagonistic effects*

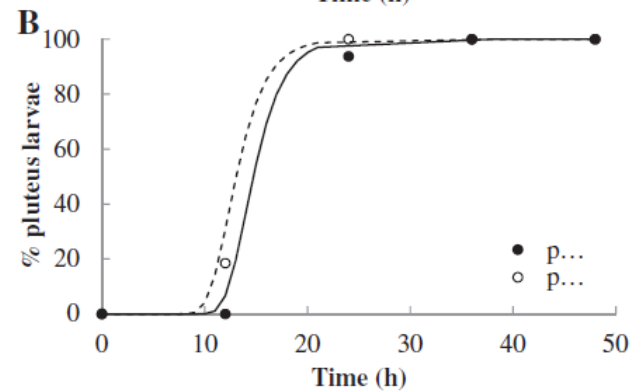
# Same mode of action and no interactions

		Interaction	
		Yes	No (additive)
Mode of action	Same		
	Different		

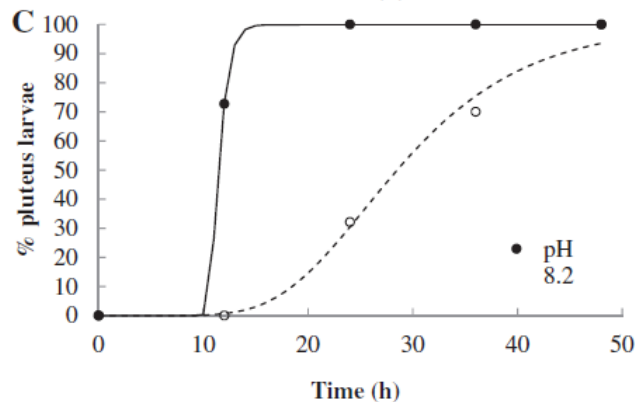
# OA + temperature



Low temperature  
Positive effect of OA



Mid temperature  
No effect of OA



High temperature  
Negative effect of OA



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Marine Environmental Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marenvrev](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marenvrev)



Temperature modulates the response of the thermophilous sea urchin *Arbacia lixula* early life stages to CO<sub>2</sub>-driven acidification

Paola Gianguzza<sup>a</sup>, Giulia Visconti<sup>a,\*</sup>, Fabrizio Gianguzza<sup>b</sup>, Salvatrice Vizzini<sup>a</sup>, Gianluca Sarà<sup>a</sup>, Sam Dupont<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra e del Mare (DiSTeM), Università di Palermo, Via Archirafi, 22, I-90123 Palermo, Italy

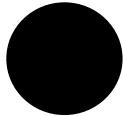
<sup>b</sup>Department of Molecular and Biomolecular Technologies Sciences (STEMBIO), University of Palermo, 90128 Palermo, Italy

<sup>c</sup>Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Gothenburg, The Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences, 45178 Fiskebäckskil, Sweden

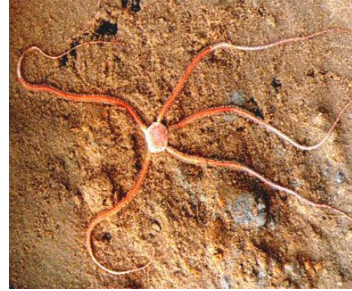
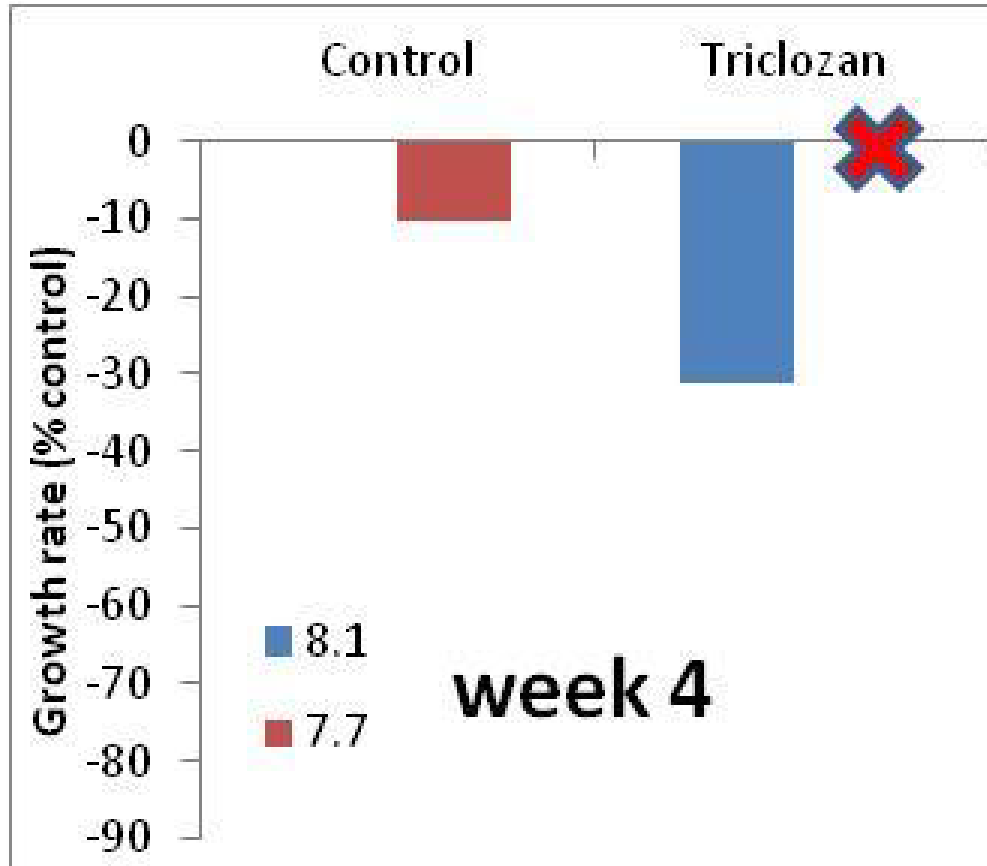
*Additive stressor,  
Depends on effects*



# Different modes of action and interactions

		Interaction	
		Yes	No (additive)
Mode of action	Same		
	Different		

# Ocean acidification with toxicants



*Complex interactions*

*Need a deeper mechanistic understanding*

# Take home messages

- ✓ *It is **not possible** to understand the combined effects from a simple multi-stressor experiment !*
- ✓ *You need a **strategy** combining different approaches (mechanisms, performance curves, models and statistics, multi-stressor experiments)*

# Research strategy

- 1. List your drivers/stressors  
(intensity, duration, etc.)*

# Research strategy

*1. List your drivers/stressors  
(intensity, duration, thresholds, etc.)*

*2. Understand the mode of action and  
interactions*

# Research strategy

1. *List your drivers/stressors*  
(intensity, duration, thresholds, etc.)

2. *Understand the mode of action and interactions*

3. *Understand your performance curves*

4. *Model*

5. *Test your model*

Monitoring

Single stressor  
experiments

Modeling  
Multiple stressors  
experiments

# To go further



Received: 26 September 2017 | Revised: 11 December 2017 | Accepted: 2 January 2018

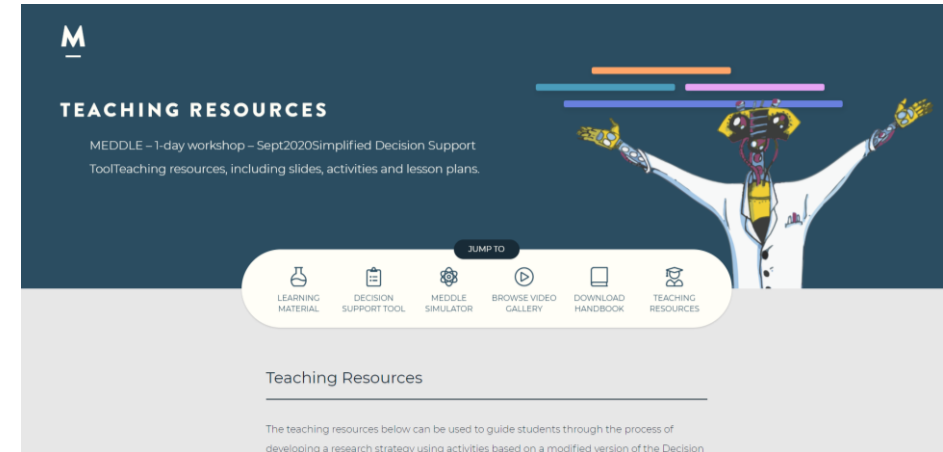
DOI: 10.1111/gcb.14102

## RESEARCH REVIEW

WILEY **Global Change Biology**

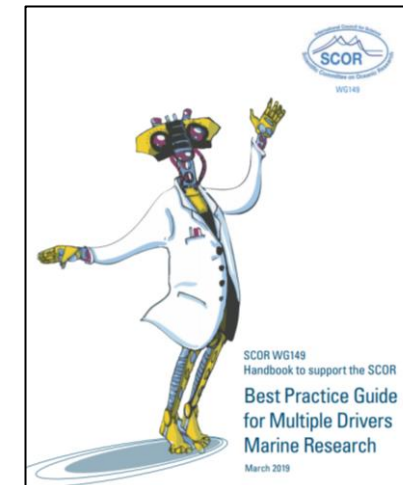
## Experimental strategies to assess the biological ramifications of multiple drivers of global ocean change—A review

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### Teaching Resources

The teaching resources below can be used to guide students through the process of developing a research strategy using activities based on a modified version of the Decision



<https://meddle-scor149.org/teaching-resources/>